

# 2025 Emerging Leader Academy

**October 28, 2024**

**Re: Participant Application Information**

## **About the Emerging Leader Academy**

The Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania announces the Return of the Emerging Leader Academy for the year of 2025. This year-long, intensive program is designed to empower new to practice Public Defenders to become leaders in indigent defense throughout Pennsylvania. The Academy focuses on Public Defender values, mindsets, roles, responsibilities, and advancing the mission of client centered Public Defense. Together the participants will join a community of PA Public Defenders who are passionate and dedicated to our cause.

Participants will learn to provide the best possible defense while concentrating on representing the whole client. The program breaks down every aspect of representation, evaluates and discusses processes, best practices, how we can improve, and how we can lead others around us to improve. The Emerging Leaders program will create a long lasting and stronger infrastructure for Pennsylvania Public Defense.

At the conclusion of the program, graduates will receive certification of completion of the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania Emerging Leader Academy. In addition, graduates will be invited and encouraged to attend future Emerging Leadership Academy events to serve as faculty and mentor attorneys.

**Applications are due by close of business November 22nd, 2024. PDAP will make decisions and notify applicants no later than December 2, 2024. The application is available here: [Emerging Leader Academy Application](#)**

## **Participant Obligations**

This program is intensive and requires significant commitment. The Leadership Academy includes four different parts:

1. In person training, including a four-day introductory boot camp, two two-day workshops throughout the year, and a four-day Public Defender leadership symposium;
2. Twice-monthly online training and collaborative meetups;
3. Mentorship and development support across Pennsylvania; and
4. Enrollment and tuition to attend the Advanced Evidence Program through Temple Law. (This is an online program <https://law.temple.edu/events/excelling-in-evidence-fall-2024/>).

The Leadership Academy is open to any Attorney at Public Defender Offices in Pennsylvania who has been practicing for 0-5 years, who is passionate about the mission of indigent defense, and is committed to joining a community designed to support and foster a culture of providing the best possible representation to our clients. Enrollment in the program is extremely limited. Participants are required to

attend the initial boot camp, in person training workshops, all monthly training and collaboration sessions, and the leadership symposium.

### **Schedule**

- **Introductory Boot Camp Symposium:** During the week of January 27- January 31, 2025, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- **Twice-Monthly Online Training and Collaborative Meetups:** The dates and times for these sessions will be selected based on the collective availability of the participants:
  - February: All Things Prelim;
  - March: Trial Skills;
  - April: Working with SW/Investigators & Experts;
  - May: No Online Workshop, In Person Weekend Voir Dire Training;
  - June: PD Wellness;
  - July: Cultural Competence and DEI;
  - August: Motions to Suppress;
  - September: No Online Workshop, In Person Motions Training;
  - October: Appeals, Post Sentence Motions;
  - November: Client Centered Representation;
- **In Person Workshop 1:** On a Monday and Tuesday in May: Voir Dire Training, in Central Pennsylvania
- **In Person Workshop 2:** On a Monday and Tuesday in September: Motions Training, in Central Pennsylvania
- **Leadership Symposium:** During the week of December 8- December 12, 2025, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. During this Leadership Symposium all Emerging Leader Participant will give a presentation on a topic that they have selected.

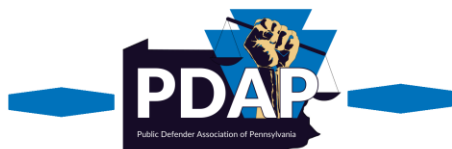
### **Application**

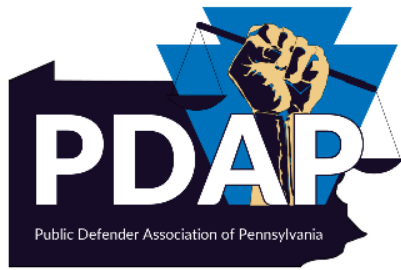
To apply, please fill out [this google form](#). The application requires a statement of interest as well as completion of the attached recommendation form from your Chief Defender.

The statement of interest can include a brief discussion on each of the following topics:

1. What experiences drive your passion for Public Defense?
2. The value of connecting with colleagues, mentors, faculty, and other participants both in person and online throughout the year?
3. What do you hope to gain by becoming a member of the PDAP Emerging Leader Community?
4. What social issues are you most passionate about? and
5. How do you envision sharing the values of the emerging leader community with the people around you?

Please direct any questions to Andrew Capone, Esq., Assistant Director of Training (West) at the Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania. [Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com](mailto:Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com)





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## **About the Emerging Leader Academy:** **Chief Defender Recommendation**

The Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania's Emerging Leader Academy demands a significant commitment from its Emerging Leader participants. This commitment extends to the offices that our Emerging Leaders come from, as the emerging leaders are required to attend several in person training conferences throughout the year. Specifically, our Emerging Leaders are required to attend:

- 4 day in person Public Defender Bootcamp the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025;
- 2 day in person Motions Workshop in the Month of May;
- 2 day in person Voir Dire Workshop in the Month of September; and
- 4 day in person Leadership Symposium the week of December 8, 2025.

While PDAP will cover all the costs associated with attending these trainings, it is important that each office considers the staffing constraints that may result from attending these conferences.

In addition to the training that our Emerging Leaders will receive at these in person conferences, the Emerging Leader Academy also includes mentorship from an experienced Defender from another county Public Defender Office, Enrollment in Temple Law's Advanced Evidence Program, and twice monthly virtual meetups focused on substantive criminal law issues.

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Each Defender applying to the Emerging Leader Program is required to obtain a recommendation from the Chief Defender in their office. If you have any questions about this program, or about the application process, please do not hesitate to reach out to Andrew Capone ([Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com](mailto:Andrew@PaPublicDefenders.com)).

Name of Emerging Leader Applicant:

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Recommendation from Chief Defender:

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Chief Defender:

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*This document must be uploaded as a PDF to the Emerging Leader Application*