

Trial Skills Faculty



Colette Tvedt

Colette Tvedt is in private practice in Seattle, Washington. She has practiced criminal defense for more than 19 years, representing a broad range of clients facing investigation or prosecution for white collar crimes, violent crimes, property crimes, and drug crimes. She frequently teaches criminal defense advocacy around the country and is faculty of the National Criminal Defense College.

Abraham V. Hutt

Abe Hutt has been a trial lawyer in Denver since 1984. He handles criminal, civil and administrative cases, including professional license matters, although his primary emphasis has been on criminal defense. He has represented clients in the trial courts of all of Colorado's 22 judicial districts, as well as the Colorado Supreme Court. He is a frequent teacher on the subject of trial tactics, as a member of the Adjunct Faculty at the University of Denver School of Law where he has taught Advanced Trial Practice and Advanced Criminal Procedure

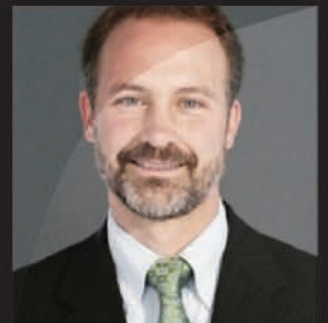


Shawna Geiger

Shawna Geiger is currently the Training Director for the Colorado Office of Alternate Defense Counsel, which provides representation to indigent defendants. Before that Ms. Geiger was a trial lawyer for 15 years focusing on criminal defense and personal injury, including nearly five years as a Colorado State Public Defender. She has been on the faculty at the Western Trial Advocacy Institute since 2004 and also is a guest instructor in Trial Advocacy at the University of Colorado.

Sean Maher

Sean Maher is the head of his own private firm in New York City. He was a public defender in Harlem and Atlanta and is on the faculty of the Southern Public Defender Training Center.



Trial Skills Faculty Biographies



Karen Smolar

Karen graduated from Wesleyan University and Brooklyn Law School, where she was a Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Fellow. Karen is a now Trial Chief and the Director of the Defenders' Academy. Karen is an adjunct professor at Seton Hall Law School where she has been teaching Persuasion and Advocacy for several years. Karen is also on the faculty at the National Criminal Defense College in Macon Georgia, the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and other state public defender trainings, nationally.

Marilyn Bednarski

Marilyn Bednarski is partner with the firm Kaye, McLane & Bednarski, LLP in Pasadena, California after 17 years as a Federal Defender in Los Angeles. Ms. Bednarski is a frequent lecturer at programs around the country. She is also a faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College.



Bill Ward

Bill Ward is the Chief Public Defender for the 4th Judicial District, Hennepin County, Minnesota. Mr. Ward is on the Executive Training Committee for the MN State Board of Public Defense. Mr. Ward is an Adjunct at Hamline University College of Law and William Mitchell College of Law teaching Trial Advocacy. He also is on the faculty for the National Criminal Defense College, the Minnesota Public Defender Trial Advocacy Institute and the Illinois Extended Trial Advocacy Program.

Catherine Dorl

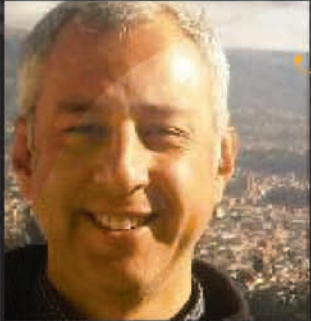
Catherine Dorl has been a trial attorney with the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office since 1995. She tries serious felony cases and handles numerous homicide cases. Ms. Dorl also has extensive experience in the theater – acting, writing and directing. She is currently the SPD's Trial Division Director.



Deja Vishny

Deja Vishny heads the Homicide Practice Group in the Milwaukee Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender and is an agency Training Coordinator. She teaches Trial Advocacy at Marquette Law School and is on the Board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and Wisconsin State Bar Criminal Law Board. She is also on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College, where she has taught for a dozen years.

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Alejandro Lockwood

Alex Lockwood is a staff attorney in the Milwaukee Trial Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender. He is a frequent lecturer at SPD training programs, including the SPD's Annual Criminal Defense Conference and Trial Skills Academy.

Keith Belzer

Keith Belzer is partner in the law firm of Devanie & Belzer where he specializes in criminal law and civil rights litigation. Mr. Belzer is a frequent national lecturer at various defense programs and faculty member of the National Criminal Defense College. He is also an actor, director, and playwright.

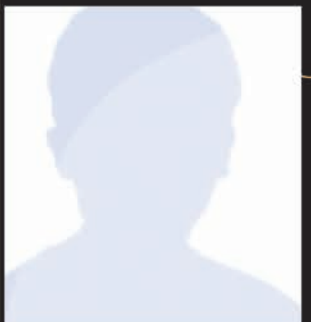
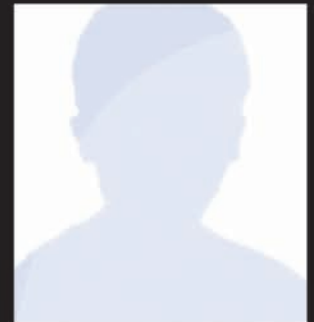


Michele LaVigne

Michele LaVigne is a member of the clinical faculty at the University of Wisconsin Law School where she directs the Public Defender Internship Program and teaches trial advocacy and substantive criminal law. For the past six years she has directed a mock trial project at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. Ms. LaVigne is on the faculty of the National Criminal Defense College.

Calvin Malone

Not available.



Neil McGinn

Neil McGinn has been an attorney with the Milwaukee Trial Office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender since 1978. He received his law degree from the University of California-Berkeley. He has taught for many years at the Milwaukee Area Technical College and is currently teaching in the clinical program at Marquette Law School.