



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice



SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY • WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Attention:** Defense Counsel, Prosecutors, Judges, Coordinators, Treatment Providers, and Others Working with Drug-Involved Defendants Both In and Out of Drug Courts

**Topic:** Interactive Webinar Series on The Role of Defense Counsel in Drug Courts and in Dealing with Drug-Involved Defendants

**SESSION THREE: THE ROLE OF DEFENSE COUNSEL IN DRUG COURTS: CHALLENGING CASES**

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The **BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Project at American** will present the third of three interactive webinars on the critical role of defense counsel in drug court programs as well as in representing drug-involved offenders both within and outside of the drug court context. The series deals with a wide range of issues and functions that defense counsel must address on a daily basis, using commonly encountered cases. Issues include their legal and ethical responsibilities, the protection of constitutional rights, and the need to apply evidence-based and best practices. These obligations continue from arrest, through initial appearance, program entry, and the time of screening for substance use, and they persist further through the stages of treatment and supervision until the ultimate case disposition.

The third session, entitled **The Role of Defense Counsel in Drug Courts: Challenging Cases, will take place on Wednesday May 18, 2016 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM EST.** The session will take attendees through 2-3 challenging cases from beginning to end. Topics discussed will include protecting clients' constitutional rights, attorney/client relationships, advice and advocacy, and navigating ethical concerns and potentially competing interests. **Please submit cases to [citrin@american.edu](mailto:citrin@american.edu) by Thursday May 12, 2016.**

The session will be divided into a 60-minute presentation with 30 minutes for follow-up questions and comments. The session is intended to be highly interactive and will be led by **Yvonne Smith Segars, Esq.** and **Mike Loeffler, Esq.**



Ms. Segars has more than 30 years of experience as a trial attorney and is currently a Professor at Kean University, in Union, NJ with the College of Business and Public Management, School of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. She teaches on the undergraduate and graduate level. Prior to becoming a professor, Ms. Segars served as New Jersey's State Public Defender from 2002 to June 2011. For nearly a decade she led New Jersey's largest defense organization of over 1,300 employees including approximately 550 staff lawyers and over 600 outside counsel. A pioneer in the drug court movement, Ms. Segars has lectured locally, nationally and internationally on drug courts and other policies related to criminal justice and drug treatment.

Ms. Segars is a former members of the Board of Directors for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and served as a core faculty member for the Justice Management Institute and a Fellow for the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI). She has conducted numerous technical assistance assignments for the BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Project at American University, with particular attention to the defense role and adherence to constitutional requirements.



Mr. Loeffler is an Assistant District Attorney with the Creek County District Attorney's Office in Bristow, Oklahoma. He is also the municipal judge for the Town of Kellyville, Oklahoma. Mr. Loeffler is also employed as part-time Adjunct Faculty at the University of Tulsa (1993-present) where he has taught Contract Law and Introduction to the Law. As an Assistant District Attorney since 1990, he has tried scores of jury trials and been primarily responsible for the filing and disposition of thousands of criminal and traffic cases, including several capital cases. In addition, Mr. Loeffler currently recently completed three years' service as Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) in Alexandria, Virginia. He also serves on national steering Committee of the National Center for DWI Courts and as a Fellow for the National Drug Court Institute (NDCI). As an NDCI Fellow since 2001, he has spoken to groups from all fifty states on various topics and conducted process and outcome evaluation with respect to the Drug Court Program Initiative developed and held jointly with the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Organization of the Session:**

The webinar is scheduled for 90 minutes, with the presentation of cases planned for the first 60 minutes and the final 30 minutes devoted to participant questions.

**The webinar is planned to be interactive with attendees invited to submit their questions in advance to [justice@american.edu](mailto:justice@american.edu) as well as during the session.** If you are not able to participate in the live session, the slides and recording of the webinar will be made available shortly after the webinar and archived at <http://www.american.edu/spa/jpo/>.

Caroline S. Cooper  
Director, BJA Drug Court Technical Assistance Project, American University, Washington D.C.