

#StatewideTraining2024

# STATEWIDE TRAINING CONFERENCE

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## 2024



September 19-20



Hilton Harrisburg

Pennsylvania  
**Legal Aid** | Network



# WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

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## Day-at-a-Glance

### TRIAL ADVOCACY SKILLS TRAINING

07:30 AM – 08:30 AM

#### **Registration & Breakfast**

08:30 AM – 08:45 AM

#### **Training Introduction**

*Moderators: Mariel Quiñones Mundo*

08:45 AM – 09:45 AM

#### **Effective Advocacy and Ethical Concerns**

*Presenters: Rebecca Dempsey, Schawanne Kilgus & Nick Matash*

09:45 AM – 10:00 AM

#### **Morning Break**

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

#### **Direct Examination, Refreshing Recollection, and Introduction of Exhibits**

*Presenters: Rebecca Dempsey, Schawanne Kilgus & Nick Matash*

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

#### **Cross Examination & Objections**

*Presenters: Rebecca Dempsey, Schawanne Kilgus & Nick Matash*

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

#### **Lunch**

01:00 PM – 05:15 PM

#### **Roleplay Workshop with Critiques (includes afternoon break with snack)**

*Presenters: Rebecca Dempsey, Schawanne Kilgus & Nick Matash*

05:15 PM – 05:30 PM

#### **Program Conclusion**

*Moderators: Mariel Quiñones Mundo*

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05:00 PM – 07:00 PM | ALLEGHENY/SUSQUEHANNA ROOM

#### **Client Counsel of Pennsylvania Dinner + Meeting + Training**

*Note: Client Members Only*

We're proud to offer sessions that specifically address issues faced by client members. For details about this year's client track, please turn to page 7.

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

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## Day-at-a-Glance

GENERAL

08:00 AM – 09:00 AM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

### **Registration & Breakfast**

\*Registration will remain open until 5:00 PM on Thursday.

09:00 AM – 10:30 AM

### **Concurrent Sessions 1**

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

### **Morning Break**

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

### **Concurrent Sessions 2**

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

### **Lunch**

12:45 PM – 01:45 PM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

### **Plenary Session: Pushing Past Performativity**

Dr. Stephanie Wright, Ed. D.

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

### **Afternoon Break**

02:00 PM – 03:30 PM

### **Concurrent Sessions 3**

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

### **Late Afternoon Break (snack included)**

03:45 PM – 04:45 PM

### **Concurrent Sessions 4**

05:00 PM – 07:00 PM | THE HILL SOCIETY

### **PLAN Diversity Cocktail Social Event**

05:30 PM – 07:30 PM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

### **Dinner**

07:30 PM – 09:30 PM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

### **Evening Activities — Photobooth, Karaoke & Trivia**

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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## Day-at-a-Glance

### GENERAL

07:30 AM – 08:30 AM | HARRISBURG BALLROOM

#### **Breakfast Buffet**

08:30 AM – 10:00 AM

#### **Concurrent Sessions 1**

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

#### **Morning Break**

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

#### **Concurrent Sessions 2**

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

#### **Late Morning Break**

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

#### **Concurrent Sessions 3**

12:30 PM – 01:15 PM

#### **Grab Your Boxed Lunch & Adjourn**

12:30 PM – 03:00 PM

#### **Law Group Meetings**

\*Law groups should pick up their boxed lunch prior to meeting.

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### LAW GROUP MEETINGS

#### **Disability Law**

ROOM: JUNIATA

#### **Elder Law**

ROOM: GOVERNOR

#### **Family Law**

ROOM: DELAWARE

#### **Health Law**

ROOM: HARRISBURGER

#### **Homeownership & Consumer Law**

ROOM: LELAND

#### **Housing Law**

ROOM: METRO A&B

#### **Public Benefits Law**

ROOM: SUSQUEHANNA

#### **Utility Law**

ROOM: ALLEGHENY

*see pages 4-7  
for session  
schedules*



# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

## Concurrent Sessions 1 & 2

09:00 AM – 10:30 AM

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT | SUSQUEHANNA

### **Storytelling with Care**

*Presenters: Zakya Hall*

EMPLOYMENT LAW | METRO A&B

### **Clean Slate Expands to Felonies!**

*Presenters: Sharon Dietrich*

FAMILY LAW | LELAND

### **Social Media Exhibits in Family Law**

*Presenters: Marika Merritt*

HEALTH LAW | HARRISBURGER

### **Medicaid and Waiver Eligibility 101**

*Presenters: Catharine Arranz & Marissa LaWall*

HOUSING LAW | METRO C

### **A Collaborative Approach to Combating the Criminalization of Homelessness**

*Presenters: Mark Boorse, Erica Briant, Charles Burrows & Marielle Macher*

INSTITUTIONAL LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **Solitary Confinement in Pennsylvania: The Harm, Trauma, and Legal Challenges**

*Presenters: Matt Feldman, Alexandra Morgan-Kurtz, Terrell Mosley & Sierra Shamer*

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT | SUSQUEHANNA

### **What If It's Not a Crisis?**

*Presenters: Dr. Duane Hagelgans & Janet Kacskos*

ELDER LAW | METRO C

### **Pennsylvania Improves Access to Justice and Guardianship Monitoring for Older Adults**

*Presenters: Keith Hinkel, Hon. John McNally III, Hon. Paula Francisco Ott, Sara Planthaber & Rhodia Thomas*

EMPLOYMENT LAW | LELAND

### **A Conversation with the Department of Labor and Industry Deputy Secretaries**

*Presenters: Sharon Dietrich, Christopher S. Hallock, Maria Macus & Julia Simon-Mishel*

LEGAL ETHICS | METRO A&B

### **How to Get Along with Your Clients and Comply with the Rules of Professional Conduct?**

*Presenters: Cathy Martin & Nicole Sipe*

LEGAL SERVER CASE MANAGEMENT | ALLEGHENY

### **Tools & Tricks for Legal Server Data**

*Presenters: Erik Hansen*

UTILITY LAW | HARRISBURGER

### **Advocating for Equitable Treatment of Tenants as Utility Consumers**

*Presenters: Vikram Patel & John Sweet*

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

## Concurrent Sessions 3 & 4

02:00 PM – 03:30 PM

BANKRUPTCY LAW | HARRISBURGER

### **Past the Basics: Intermediate Issues in Using Chapter 13 Bankruptcy to Save the Home**

*Presenters: John Byrd, Alfonso Madrid, Cathy Martin & Monty Wilson*

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT | SUSQUEHANNA

### **Building a Better Legal Aid Resource List**

*Presenters: Nora Davenport & Jessica Durkin*

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING | METRO A&B

### **Addressing Your Bias to Better Tell Your Client's Story**

*Presenters: Dr. Stephanie Wright, Ed. D.*

PUBLIC BENEFITS LAW | METRO C

### **Housing and Public Benefits**

*Presenters: Matt Rich & Peter Zurflieh*

SOCIAL SECURITY/SSI LAW | LELAND

### **An Insider's Look at the PA Disability Determination Service**

*Presenters: Kristen Dama, Mark Maher & Scott Panckeri*

UTILITY LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **How to Keep Your Clients Connected**

*Presenters: Lauren N. Berman & Charlotte Edelstein*

03:45 PM – 04:45 PM

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT | SUSQUEHANNA

### **Grants 101**

*Presenters: Ann Tydeman-Solomon*

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING | LELAND

### **Name Changes: Fundamentals, Challenges and the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community**

*Presenters: Michelle Dempsey, Connor Marcum & Nicky Ripley*

HEALTH LAW | METRO C

### **Accessing Behavioral Health Services**

*Presenters: Janice Meinert*

HOME OWNERSHIP & CONSUMER RIGHTS LAW | METRO A&B

### **Student Loan Debt Relief Updates**

*Presenters: John Abel, Jess Harvey, Kerry Smith & Autumn Wynde*

HOUSING LAW | HARRISBURGER

### **Representing Mobile Home Park Residents**

*Presenters: Kevin Quisenberry & Dan Vitek*

PUBLIC BENEFITS LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **Effective Advocacy with the CAO, Appeal Units, and Bureau of Hearings and Appeals**

*Presenters: William McLaughlin, Maripat Pileggi, & Megan Williams*

# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

## Concurrent Sessions 1 & 2

08:30 AM – 10:00 AM

COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT | SUSQUEHANNA

### **Systemic Advocacy: Strategies for Effective Messaging**

*Presenters: Jessica Durkin & Anabel Sweeney*

ELDER LAW | JUNIATA

### **Preventing Unlawful Discharges and Holding Nursing Homes Accountable**

*Presenters: Erika Barber & Pam Walz*

HOUSING LAW | DELAWARE

### **The Many Faces of the Fair Housing Act: Issue Spotting, Admin. Enforcement & Litigation**

*Presenters: Jaime Cameron, Kevin Quisenberry & Dan Vitek*

IMMIGRATION LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **Intersection of Workplace Abuse and Immigration Relief**

*Presenters: Amy Chin-Arroyo & Hannah Comins*

LEGAL ETHICS | METRO A&B

### **Artificial Intelligence for Lawyers: Legal Ethics and Best Practices**

*Presenters: Devin Chwastyk, Jordan Fischer, Dr. James L. Norrie & Jamison Rotz*

SOCIAL SECURITY/SSI LAW | LELAND

### **Hot Topics in SSI/SSDI Law and Policy under SSA Commissioner O'Malley**

*Presenters: Jennifer Burdick & Erica Hartwig*

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

CLIENT ADVOCACY | DELAWARE

### **Community Lawyering**

*Presenters: Kris Bergstrom, Bob Damewood, Ellie Horvath, Jaime Kinder & Ariel Morales*

EMPLOYMENT LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **Employment Law Basics: Common Issues in Low-Wage Pennsylvania Workplaces**

*Presenters: Rhiannon DiClemente, Chelsea Edwards & Mariel Mussack*

FAMILY LAW | JUNIATA

### **Navigating the Tender Years Hearsay Exception: 42 Pa.C.S 5985.1 & Civil Proceedings**

*Presenters: Schawne Kilgus*

HOME OWNERSHIP & CONSUMER RIGHTS LAW | LELAND

### **Fundamentals of Foreclosure Defense**

*Presenters: Rachel Labush & Joanne Werdel*

LANGUAGE ACCESS | METRO A&B

### **Best Practices When Working with Interpreters**

*Presenters: Alicia Anguiano*



# FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

## Concurrent Sessions 3

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

CLIENT ADVOCACY | METRO A&B

### **Advocacy In & Outside the Court: How to Zealously (& Creatively) Advocate for Your Client**

*Presenters: Julie Karabin & Logan Lewis*

HEALTH LAW | ALLEGHENY

### **Health Care for Older Adults in PA**

*Presenters: Jessica Lippert & Katy McKee*

HUMAN RELATIONS | LELAND

### **How to Attract and Keep Talented Attorneys in Legal Aid**

*Presenters: Dr. Tevis Bryant, Megan Lovett & Elise Wilson-Coles*

PUBLIC BENEFITS LAW | JUNIATA

### **Family Law and Public Benefits**

*Presenters: Pamela Fleck & Peter Zurflied*

UTILITY LAW | DELAWARE

### **Keeping the Lights On: Emerging Issues in Utility Law & Why They Matter to Legal Services**

*Presenters: Ria Pereira & Joline Price*

## CLIENT MEMBER TRACK

*FOR CLIENT MEMBERS ONLY*

THURSDAY

09:00 AM – 10:30 AM | PENN HARRIS

### **Utility Bill Basics for Clients Leaders**

*Presenters: Kristen Firchak Geesaman, Elizabeth Marx, Gio Ortiz-Brackbill & Joline Price*

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM | PENN HARRIS

### **Pennsylvania Election Protection**

*Presenters: Jill Greene*

03:45 PM – 04:45 PM } PENN HARRIS

### **Tenant Protections in Pennsylvania**

*Presenters: Holly Beck, Adam DiBuo & Danielle Harrington*

FRIDAY

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM | HARRISBURGER

### **Project Director + Client Meeting**

Thanks for joining us at the Statewide Training Conference! We are committed to supporting each and every employee in our Network, and we want to ensure that everyone has the resources and backing they need to thrive. As we wrap up, we invite you to explore other ways we can help champion your professional growth & success.

## AFFINITY & PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

The PLAN Network Staff Affinity & Professional Groups are an important part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. The groups are open to all staff in our Network, regardless of their position, who self-identify as being a member of the group. Their purpose is to create a safe and confidential space for participants to share their experiences and build relationships with colleagues around the state.

- Ally Affinity Group
- Asian Pacific American Affinity Group
- Black Staff Affinity Group
- Client Advocate Professional Group
- Diverse Ability Affinity Group
- Latinx Staff Affinity Group
- LGBTQ+ Staff Affinity Group
- New to Practice Professional Group

Learn more at <https://palegalaid.net/plan-staff-affinity-groups>. You can also reach out to [deib@palegalaid.net](mailto:deib@palegalaid.net).

## BRIEF AND INFORMATION BANK

PLAN maintains a Brief and Information Bank that contains recordings of all trainings and materials. This repository is password protected and only accessible to PLAN Network staff through a member account on the PLAN website. To request access to your member account, visit <https://palegalaid.net/request-member-account>.

## EMAIL DISCUSSION (LISTSERVS)

PLAN Network staff can join the following listservs to stay updated on substantive areas of law, including:

- Disability Law
- Elder Law
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Health Law
- Homeownership and Consumer Rights Law
- Housing and Community Development Law
- Limited English Proficiency/Language Access
- PA Medical-Legal Group
- SSI Non-Disability Issues
- Utility/Energy Law
- Welfare and Public Benefits Law

PLAN Network staff can also join these email groups:

- Managing Attorney\*
- PA Legal Aid Network (General Information)
- Technology

These listservs are helpful for reaching out to colleagues around the state for advice and questions on cases and practice. To be added to a listserv, visit <https://palegalaid.net/discussion-groups> and follow the directions to subscribe.

*\*Membership for this group is restricted to managing attorneys.*

### PLAN WEBSITES

#### PALAWHELP.ORG

Our website, PALawHelp.org, offers comprehensive legal information and resources for individuals seeking legal assistance. The website covers a wide range of civil legal issues and provides links to government agencies and other legal aid providers. The site also features an array of self-help resources and information on the operation of Pennsylvania Courts and county law libraries.

Learn more: <https://www.palawhelp.org/>

#### PAPROBONO.NET

PAProbono.net is our website that supports the provision of pro bono legal aid in Pennsylvania. It features a comprehensive Pro Bono Program Directory, connecting advocates with organizations where they can volunteer their services. It also offers news and updates on pro bono developments in Pennsylvania, an event calendar showcasing relevant trainings and events, and a members-only section with exclusive resources for advocates.

Check it out: <https://www.paprobono.net/>

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network

**EXCELLENCE**

**AWARDS**

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITIES.  
EQUITABLE JUSTICE. STRONG FUTURES.

SCAN  
ME



TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

THURSDAY,  
MARCH 27, 2025



Hilton Harrisburg

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