

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
Jennifer N. Sellitti, NJ Public Defender
Lauren Petty, Director of Training

Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU)
Forensic Science Unit Updates
2.4 NJ CLE credits; 2 PA credits
via Zoom webinar

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

AGENDA

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| 10:00-11:30 | <u>Topic:</u> <i>Forensic Science Unit Updates</i>
<u>Presenter:</u> Tamar Lerer, Deputy Public Defender, Forensic Science Unit |
| 11:30-12:00 | <u>Topic:</u> <i>New CIU Brief Policies</i>
<u>Presenter:</u> Kathryn Marron, Deputy Public Defender CIU |

PRESENTERS

Tamar Lerer, Esq.

Tamar Lerer serves as the first Deputy Public Defender of OPD's Forensic Science Unit. In that role, Tamar supports the litigation of attorneys across the agency over all scientific fields, as well as litigating such issues herself. Tamar's cutting-edge work bridging forensics and case law has led to *State v. Miles*, the first decision by a court of last resort in the United States to require disclosure of discovery regarding the use of facial recognition technology.

Tamar has taught appellate advocacy at Seton Hall Law School and has performed trainings across the country on topics ranging from the ethics of handling criminal cases with forensic evidence to challenging the use of Automatic License Plate Readers. Tamar has published articles in numerous publications on topics ranging from the reliability of non-eyewitness identifications to prosecutorial misconduct. Tamar clerked for the Hon. Stephen H. Glickman of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 2013, where she co-founded the criminal justice clinic, and her B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Swarthmore College in 2009.

Kathryn Marron- Deputy, Conviction Integrity Unit

Kathryn Marron (née Sylvester) is the Deputy Public Defender of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender's Conviction Integrity Unit. In this role, she oversees the quality representation provided to Public Defender clients in their post-conviction relief litigation throughout New Jersey. Ms. Marron coordinates internal training for attorneys and investigative staff regarding common post-conviction litigation issues. She also travels to other jurisdictions to work as faculty at their post-conviction and appellate annual training sessions. In 2020, Ms. Marron served as the designee of the Public Defender on the Supreme Court Working Group on the Duty of Confidentiality and Wrongful Convictions. In 2024, she served as a panelist at the Seton Hall Law Journal of Legislation and Public Policy Symposium on an Innocence Centered View of New Jersey's Post Conviction Jurisprudence and as faculty at the National Legal Aid and Defense Association Appellate Training in Columbia, Missouri. Previously, she worked in the Monmouth Trial Region of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender as a staff attorney, representing clients in a variety of trials and motion practice, including charges of drug possession and distribution, aggravated assault, stalking, and homicides. A graduate of the University of Maryland and Seton Hall University School of Law, she enjoys reading, visiting the Jersey shore, and spending quality time with her husband, daughter and black labrador, Bear.