OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
NJ CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
Lauren Petty, OPD Director of Training

OFFICE OF PARENTAL REPRESENTATION (OPR)

Strategies for Opposing Permanency Plans

1.2 NJ CLE credits; 1 PA CLE credit
via Zoom webcast`

Tuesday, December 15, 2026
12:30-1:30

AGENDA

12:30 - 1:30 pm **Faculty: James O'Kelly, Deputy Public Defender, OPR Appellate**

Topic:
Emphasizing underutilized legal arguments supporting extensions of ASFA deadlines and continued family reunification efforts rather than default approval of TPR case goals due to expiring federal ASFA deadlines.

PRESENTER BIO

James O'Kelly, Esq.

James O'Kelly is the Deputy Public Defender of the Office of Parental Representation – Appellate Section. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Rutgers Law School in 2014. James previously practiced privately for approximately ten years, focusing on transactional matters, criminal defense appellate work for OPR-A, and *pro bono* cases. He also served as a pool attorney for both OPR and the appellate section.