

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER
NJ CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
Jennifer N. Sellitti, NJ Public Defender

OFFICE OF PARENTAL REPRESENTATION (OPR)
Ethically Navigating the Representation of the OPR Client
1.2 NJ CLE Ethics credits; 1 PA CLE Ethics credit

July 31, 2026
12:30-1:30

AGENDA

Presenters: Meghan Gulczynski, Esq., ADPD OPR Appellate
Nadia Herrera, Deputy Public Defender, OPR Northern

Topics: This training will address common challenges in attorney–client relationships using real-world hypotheticals from attorney surveys, and will provide a clear, practical overview of the key RPCs that support effective, client-centered representation. Participants will gain tools and strategies for active, consistent communication, respecting client autonomy, diligent representation, balancing candor to the tribunal and protecting client confidentiality and using trauma-informed practices

PRESENTERS

Meghan Gulczynski, Esq. joined OPR-Appellate in 2023. She graduated from CUNY Law in 2002 and started her career as a public interest attorney in 2003. She chose to focus her career on providing access to justice to those who couldn't afford a high-priced attorney. As a staff attorney at Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS), she had the privilege of representing families in the NJ Superior Court and before the Appellate Division in various matters like domestic violence, custody, divorce matters, as well as clients in housing court to avoid eviction and senior citizens in consumer protection matters. Meghan opened a small firm focused on family law and volunteered for the District VI Ethics committee before rejoining NNJLS in 2019. As a *Pro Bono* Managing Attorney she trained and supervised private attorneys who took on cases *pro bono* for NNJLS clients, as well as designed continuing legal education courses. Meghan has two teenage daughters and enjoys yoga when she is not driving her kids around. She loves her dog, Riley.

Nadia Herrera, Esq. (she/her), served as a law clerk in Union County in the Family Division. After completing her clerkship, she worked for Family Legal Care (formerly Legal Information for Families Today), where she supervised attorneys who assisted *pro se* litigants in the NYC Family Courts. She then worked as a staff attorney at the Center for Family Representation in Manhattan. In 2016, she joined the OPR as an Assistant Deputy Public Defender and practiced primarily in Hudson County. In 2021, Nadia became the Deputy Public Defender in charge of OPR's Northern Office, where she manages attorneys and staff in Essex, Passaic, and Union Counties. Ms. Herrera has been a leader in the development and implementation of OPR's Social Work Pilot Program. Ms. Herrera attended Brown University and Rutgers School of Law – Newark, where she was a Kinoy-Stavis Public Interest Fellow.