

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

**FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIT TRAINING
IDENTIFICATIONS**

via Zoom webinar

1.2 NJ CLE Credits; 1 PA CLE Credit

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 - 12:30-1:30

AGENDA

12:30-1:30 Presenter: Dr. Trent Terrell, Professor of Psychology, McLennan College, TX

Topics:

- Why research on traditional eyewitness identifications informs our understanding of NWID (network ID) situations.
- The distinction between memories and cognitive decisions, and why they can look the same to the judicial process.
- The importance of top-down processing, confirmation bias, and the “curse of knowledge” in perceiving ambiguous stimuli, including faces.
- Demand characteristics in NWID situations, and how to mitigate them
- Research on real-world misidentifications of familiar people, and when confidence in IDs matters
- Recommendations for making NWIDs more reliable.

PRESENTER

Dr. Trent Terrell

Dr. Trent Terrell is a cognitive psychologist and researcher who has studied the reliability of human memory for over 20 years. He attended Baylor University for nine years, earning his Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology in 2003, his Master’s Degree in Neuroscience in 2005, and his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology in 2008. He was named as Baylor’s Outstanding Graduate Researcher in 2006. He worked as a Professor of Psychology at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, TX for 18 years, where he won the Excellence in Scholarship award in 2014. As of Fall 2026, he is a professor of psychology at McLennan College in Waco, TX.

Dr. Terrell began consulting in criminal cases involving eyewitness memory in 2010, and has since consulted in over 400 cases involving eyewitness memory, delayed outcries of sexual abuse, and other memory issues, testifying over 50 times. He consulted and testified in the 2023 death penalty case of Daryl Wheatfall, and has also worked with the Innocence Project of Texas on post-conviction appeals of sexual assault cases. Since 2020, his case analyses have contributed to over two dozen identification and delayed outcry sexual assault cases being dismissed. He is the owner of Terrell Expert Consulting, LLC.

Dr. Terrell is a well-regarded CLE speaker, having presented to the NACDL’s Forensics Conference and Defending Allegations of Sexual Assault Conference, to the State Bar of Texas Advanced Criminal Law Seminar, to the Center for American and International Law, many times to the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and to numerous online CLE companies, including LawLine and Justia. He lives in Texas with his wife Rosemary and their three children.