

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

***The New Suppression Playbook:
Three Suppression Motions You Should be Filing***

1.2 NJ CLE credits; 1 PA CLE credit

in person at OPD Training Room, 31 Clinton St. 5th Fl., Newark, NJ
or virtual (via Zoom webinar)

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026
12:30-1:30 pm**

AGENDA

- Presenter:** Rachel Neckes, Asst. Deputy Public Defender, Appellate
- challenge digital search warrants under State v. Missak's heightened requirements for particularity and scope, including when to file motions to quash, motions to suppress, and how to argue the appropriate remedy for Missak violations
- Presenter:** Peter Blum, Asst. Deputy Public Defender, Appellate
- explore how to develop a constitutional challenge to nighttime and very early morning search warrants, arguing that invasive after-hours entries should require a special showing of necessity akin to the justification required for no-knock warrants
- Presenter:** Zachary Markarian, Assistant Deputy Public Defender, Appellate
- develop new strategies to challenge warrantless automobile searches based on the “spontaneous and unforeseeable” requirement under State v. Witt.

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Presenters

After graduating from Brooklyn Law School in 1993, **Peter Blum** clerked for a federal judge and was an appellate public defender for ten years with The Legal Aid Society in New York City. He was then a legal writing professor for seven years at Howard University School of Law and Valparaiso University School of Law. Since 2011, he has worked for the Appellate Section of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender. He has argued in various appellate courts, including the New York Court of Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and numerous times in the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Zachary Markarian graduated from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 2013, after which he clerked on the Third Circuit and the District Court for the Northern District of California. From 2015 through 2018, Mr. Markarian was an associate at Sullivan and Cromwell. Mr. Markarian has been with the Appellate Section since 2018 and is one of the appellate-trial liaisons for Essex County.

Rachel Neckes is an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in the Appellate Section. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Bates College. After law school, she joined the OPD's Appellate Section as a legal fellow, and then clerked for the Hon. Gerald H. McHugh of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She returned to the Appellate Section in 2023 and has since defended clients across the state in the Superior Court, Appellate Division, and Supreme Court.