



COURSE AGENDA

NDAA's 2026 Retention & Recruitment Symposium

Building the Prosecutor Workforce of the Future

Attendees must wear their name tags to all events and turn off cell phones during all sessions.

Thursday September 10, 2026 Understanding the Talent Challenge

- 7:45 – 8:45 AM Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM Check-in & Registration
- 9:00 – 9:15 AM **Welcome Remarks**
Joe Dallaire
District Attorney
Fairbanks, AK
- Erika Evans**
City Attorney
Seattle, WA
- Leesa Manion**
Prosecuting Attorney
King County, WA

Understanding Attrition & Retention

- 9:15 – 10:30 AM **Employer Branding & Recruitment Campaign Lab:
Winning the Hearts and Minds of Future Prosecutors**
Amy McKenzie
Director of Communications
Riverside County, CA
- 10:30 – 10:45 AM Networking Break
- 10:45 – 11:45 AM **Tech Without the Trap: Using Innovation Without Ethical Exposure**
TBD
- 11:45 – 1:15 PM Networking Lunch (On Your Own)



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Understanding Attrition & Workforce Realities

- 1:15 – 2:15 PM **The First Two Years Matter: Redesigning Onboarding to Stop Early Attrition**
Robert Yu
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Pierce County, WA
- 2:15 – 2:30 PM Networking Break
- 2:30 – 3:30 PM **Work Smarter, Stay Longer: Operational Reforms that Retain Prosecutors**
Kevin Barton
District Attorney
Washington County, OR
- John Wentworth**
District Attorney
Clackamas County, OR
- 3:30 – 3:45 PM Networking Break
- 3:45 – 4:45 PM **Wellbeing as Strategy: Strengthening Resilience to Recruit and Retain Talent**
J. Sam Rodgers
Chief Assistant District Attorney
Madison County, NY

Friday, September 11, 2026 Designing Tomorrow's Workforce

- 7:45 – 8:45 AM Breakfast Buffet
- 9:00 – 9:10 AM **Welcome Back, September 11 Reflection, & Moment of Silence**
- 9:10 – 10:10 AM **Rural & Tribal Recruitment Solutions Panel**
Joe Dallaire (moderator)
District Attorney
Fairbanks, AK
- Celeste Robertson**
President & CEO
Center for Rural American Justice



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Melissa Simonsen

Tribal Prosecutor
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, WA

- 10:10 – 10:25 AM Networking Break
- 10:25 – 11:25 AM **Caseload Science: Workload Metrics & Staffing Analytics**
Jennifer Lafferty
Senior Research Scientist
CNA Center for Justice Research and Innovation
- 11:25 – 11:30 AM Stretch Break
- 11:30 – 12:30 PM **Flexibility Without Fracture: Making It Work in a Courtroom-Driven Profession**
TBD
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM Networking Lunch (On Your Own)
- 2:00 – 2:45 PM **Show Me the Incentives: The Student Debt Toolkit for Recruitment & Retention**
Rebecca Stanley
Director of Employee Financial Services & Retention
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, SC
- 2:45 – 3:00 PM Networking Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM **Buy-In by Design: How One DA’s Office Built a Retention Engine**
John Wentworth
District Attorney,
Clackamas County, OR
- 4:00 – 4:05 PM Stretch Break
- 4:05 – 5:05 PM **Why We Serve:**
Harnessing Personal Stories to Recruit the Next Generation of Prosecutors
Brad Carlyon
County Attorney
Navajo County, AZ
- David Leibowitz**
Public Information Officer
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COURSE AGENDA

Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council

5:05– 5:15 PM

Closing Remarks

Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.

Executive Director

National District Attorneys Association

Note: *This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Recording, reproduction, or distribution of any portion of this program is prohibited. Views expressed are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the National District Attorneys Association. Participants should consult current, authoritative sources when researching specific legal matters*