



Academy Legal Trainings - 2017

The following legal trainings have been offered by the Academy for Justice-Informed Practice on a rotating basis since 2015. [Join our mailing list](#) to receive email notifications about our scheduled legal trainings.

Academy Legal Training 101 – for prosecutors and defense lawyers **Best Practices in Working with People with Mental Illness in New York City Criminal Proceedings**

This training offers 6.5 CLE credit hours

Understanding Mental Illness and Recovery

- Overview of mental illness
 - Behavioral problems vs. mental illness
- Sign, symptoms and other indicators
- Common co-occurring disorders
- Identifying and responding to a person with mental illness
- Treatment options
- Recovery

Community-based Diversion and ATI Programs: What Do We Worry About? What Works?

- Research on the relationship between mental illness and criminal behavior
- Other factors more strongly associated with criminal behavior (risks and needs)
- The effect of mental illness and other individual attributes on interventions designed to change attitudes, and behavior, around criminal activity
- Mental illness and violence
- Applying the "risks-needs-responsivity" model in treatment and supervision plans

Mental Health and Criminal Justice: Statutory Issues

- Fitness/ Capacity to proceed - CPL § 730
 - Differentiating mental illness from behavioral problems

- Mental Hygiene Law §9.43
- CPL § 390.30 (exam in aid of sentence)
- Responsibility/Defenses/C.P.L. § 330.20

First Person Perspectives: Shared Insights from Individuals Formerly Involved in the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Systems.

This workshop will provide a first-hand account of what it is like to be arrested and processed through the criminal justice system in New York City. The overarching goal of this training is to help legal professionals learn to better engage and communicate with their clients/defendants to facilitate better outcomes.

Job-related Fatigue: Ethical Concerns for Criminal Defense Attorneys, Prosecutors and Judges

Relevant sections of the Code of professional conduct

- Impact of stress /fatigue on practice
- Intro to the Lawyers' Assistance Program
- What to do when a colleague develops a mental health or Substance use problem

Academy Legal Training 201 – for prosecutors and defense lawyers
Diversion in NYC: A Best Practice Approach to Working with People with Behavioral Health Needs in Criminal Proceedings

This training offers 6.5 CLE credit hours

The New York City Diversion Landscape

In this workshop, we will provide an overview of the landscape of New York City alternatives to justice involvement, including new and emerging initiatives. Using the sequential intercept model, we will illustrate the potential points at which diversion can take place.

Overview of Treatment Programs - Opportunities for Hope and Recovery

In this workshop, we will provide an overview of the treatment systems and modalities to which people are diverted and discuss the importance of helping clients understand their options. The discussion will be framed in concepts of recovery and will highlight the importance helping clients find meaning, hope and purpose in the alternative choices they are being offered.

Creating Alliance in the Court Process to Support Recovery

Drawing from the research on Procedural Justice, this workshop will address the importance of effective communication and engagement in facilitating client buy-in, motivation and success. We will examine a case from Brooklyn Mental Health Court to illustrate how a trauma-informed, person-centered approach can build strong alliances with clients that can foster compliance with court mandates.

Diversion from a First Person Perspective

In this workshop, we will hear from individuals who have successfully completed mandated treatment programs and the process they went through in deciding to accept the alternative vs. incarceration. They will discuss their experience with the diversion process itself, including their understanding of the options laid out for them and their readiness (or lack of readiness) to accept treatment alternatives. They will also discuss how their relationship with their lawyer, the judge and the prosecutor affected their experiences and the decisions they made.

Diversion and Fitness - (Ethics credit) During this panel discussion we will address the challenges attorneys face when they represent clients who arguably lack capacity – both adjudicative competency and the capacity to give informed consent regarding treatment. The session will explore the differences between these fitness standards. The session will also explore the attorney’s standard of competent representation when a client has mental illness. What level of knowledge about mental illness and treatment should a lawyer have?

Have questions or want to get in touch with us? Email or call us:

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