



COVID-19

Response for Prosecutors and Courts



Webinar — Proactive Prosecution: Protecting the Record and Overcoming Pre-Trial Issues during COVID-19

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020

Time: 2:00-3:30 PM EDT

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised new issues and exacerbated persisting challenges for prosecutors, who are consistently faced with the task of preparing cases that are victim-centered, sensitive to constitutional guarantees, and resilient to vulnerabilities on appeal. Virtual hearings and other accommodations made to criminal justice processes in light of COVID-19 implicate concerns related to the rights of victims and defendants, as well as the public's right to open and accessible proceedings. Issues related to pre-trial detention and potential continuances also take on new dimensions during the pandemic. Furthermore, the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, and the complexity it adds to cases, lends itself to the litigation of novel defense motions and challenges. An effective response to this unprecedented time requires proactive consideration of statutes and case law and also engages fundamental principles of pre-trial practice.

This webinar addresses potential legal issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses strategies to prepare for defense challenges and mitigate appellate exposure. Please join us on **Tuesday, September 15, 2020 from 2:00-3:30 PM EDT** as presenters discuss:

- Proactively identifying legal issues arising from pandemic-related delays.
- Responding to motions raised in context of COVID-19 accommodations.
- Establishing a detailed record on impact of pandemic and due diligence measures taken in response.

This webinar will be an interactive session featuring Patti Powers and Jon Kurland, AEquitas Attorney Advisors. To ensure that we are addressing your concerns, please share any specific topics that you would like addressed during the virtual discussion (e.g., specific questions on pre-trial detention). Please enter your questions when you register.

Note: There is no cost of attendance for this webinar. NDAA will be applying for CLE credits in the state of Virginia.

Register



Patti Powers

Patricia D. Powers presents on trial strategy, legal analysis and policy, and ethical issues related to the prosecution of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and stalking. Prior to working with AEquitas, Ms. Powers served as a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and Supervising Attorney for the Sexual Assault-Domestic Violence Unit in Yakima County, Washington. During her twenty-seven years as a trial attorney, Ms. Powers focused primarily on sexual assault, domestic violence and child and adult homicides, including complex litigation of high profile and cold cases with frequent use of expert testimony. As a prosecutor, Ms. Powers served as a member of the child fatality and domestic violence fatality review committees and the Washington State Technical Assistance Committee for Child Death Review Guidelines. She was a co-founder and co-chair of the Yakima County Sexual Assault Task Force.



Jon Kurland

Jonathan H. Kurland is an Attorney Advisor with AEquitas. Prior to joining AEquitas, Jonathan worked in the District Attorney's Office of Berks County, Pennsylvania where he started as an Assistant District Attorney and prosecuted the range of cases typical for a jurisdiction with a combination of urban, suburban, and rural communities. However, over time, Jonathan's focus increasingly trended to violent crime and cases involving the most vulnerable and exploited of victims. When Jonathan left after sixteen years in the District Attorney's Office to join AEquitas, he was the Chief Deputy District Attorney and supervised, advised, and still prosecuted matters involving intimate partner violence and homicides, sexual violence, child abuse, and grand jury investigations. During his time in the Berks County District Attorney's Office, Jonathan helped to develop collaboration between prosecutors, law enforcement, victim advocacy, medical professional, and other community stakeholders particularly through serving as the office lead for a variety of victim-focused multidisciplinary investigative teams and other community-based collaborative efforts focusing on intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.

We want to hear from you! If you would like to submit questions or have other concerns, please email us at covid19_courts@cna.org.

COVID-19-related news articles and resources, and past bulletins will be posted on the [NDAA website](#). Continue to check the website for updated information.

NDAA | [Website Blog](#)



CNA | [Website](#)



