

Federal Community Defender Office
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Breaking Blue: Cross-Examining Police Officers in a Brave New World

Thursday, January 14, 2021

<http://pae.fd.org/>

AGENDA

**1:00 -2:15 p.m. Breaking Blue: Cross-Examining Police Officers
in a Brave New World**

Jennifer Sellitti, Director of Training & Communications
New Jersey Office of the Public Defender

Attorneys will leave this lecture with a new set of tools they can use to destroy the credibility of police officers in front of even the most reluctant judge or jury. This talk explores: brain science around judicial and juror decision-making and how it informs advocacy; witness demeanor and its role in argument; how to argue racial bias in policing in a way that persuades the factfinder without alienating them; how to more fully develop stories of officer bias; advanced impeachment tailored to breaking down police witnesses; and ways to pull it all together in powerful written and oral arguments. This lecture goes beyond a discussion about cross-examination and hopes to inspire lawyers take control of the narrative in the courtroom, rethink the way they present evidence, and motivate factfinders to see a case through the client's eyes and the defense's point of view.

2:15 p.m. Adjourn

Total PA CLE: 1 hour substantive