



2024 SPAR Training Highlights

Since the start of SPAR training, the program has offered many in-person and online trainings. These trainings focused on skills requested by those in the community and strived to reach rural and underserved areas. The in-person programs were all incredibly successful, with each one reaching full capacity for the training facility. This cost-effective programming allowed misdemeanor attorneys the opportunity to build the skills necessary to defend drug cases.

Program highlights include:

- **Be the Best Advocate You Can Be – East Wenatchee, WA**
 - Description: This training included four sessions: Better Trials through Motion Practice, Calling Out Prosecutorial Misconduct, DNA and State Crime Lab, and Preserving Error for Appeal.
 - Feedback: Speakers rated an average of 5/5 stars.
- **Theme, Theory, and Storytelling – Online**
 - Description: In trial practice, theory is everything. This session focused on building themes and theories into a misdemeanor drug attorney's trial skills and how to use storytelling skills to get juries and judges to understand the case theory of misdemeanor drug attorneys.
 - Feedback: "Very good presentation, great information and practically useful!"; "Great suggestions for breaking down the process of creating a theory and theme. I especially liked the suggestions about incorporating emotion into the theory/theme/story." Speakers rated an average of 4.7/5 stars.
- **Direct Examination – Online**
 - Description: In this session, we discussed presenting a compelling, persuasive, and engaging direct examination. Misdemeanor drug attorneys struggle with direct examination because we do it less frequently and may model poor examples they see in court. This session taught tools and styles to present a direct examination that grabs and keeps the jury's attention and advances the case theory. Session attendees learned techniques to present a compelling and dynamic direct examination in defending drug cases, which the jury will remember when they enter their deliberations.
 - Feedback: "Helpful, relevant, action step information was provided by the presenter.", "These trial advocate topics you have been doing are such a great thing! We need more of them because they are practical and can improve our daily practice of law.", "Great engaging speaker." Speakers rated an average of 5/5 stars.
- **Closing Arguments– Online**
 - Description: A closing argument is a misdemeanor drug attorney's final opportunity to speak directly with the jury about why they should accept the defense theory of the case. After this webinar, misdemeanor drug attorneys were empowered with tools and examples for presenting persuasive closing arguments.



- Feedback: “I have a trial coming up on Monday and this has really helped me get the brain juices flowing. My trial experience is limited so I need any tips I can get!”, “I really enjoyed this CLE. Super helpful and interesting.”, “It’s very helpful for structuring closings in the future”, “This trial training series has been excellent! Thank you!”. Speakers rated an average of 5/5 stars.
- **WSBA Standards Training - Online**
 - Description: The WSBA recently adopted updated standards of Indigent Defense. These standards will impact caseloads, the necessary experience needed to handle cases, and the support attorneys must receive from social workers, investigators, and others. After this webinar, misdemeanor drug attorneys understood the new standards and can effectively employ them to represent persons accused of crimes in our state.
 - Feedback: Speakers rated an average of 4.5/5 stars
- **Putting Your Skills to Practice – Port Townsend, WA**
 - Description: This training included six sessions: Adopting a Theory of the Case, Opening Statement Strategies, Developing Winning Opening Statements Workshop, Impeaching Witnesses through Effective Cross-Examination, Building Skills to Effectively Impeach Witnesses Workshop, and Incorporating Theory into Opening Statements and Cross-Examination.
 - Feedback: “I found all of it very helpful “, “My colleague and I talked about how this was one of the better CLEs we’ve attended. Personally, I’d rank it near the very top. I appreciated the emphasis on supporting each other as a community of defenders. As someone in solo practice, I think that element has a tendency to get lost amongst us. Thank you.”. Speakers rated an average of 5/5 stars.
- **Be the Best Advocate You Can Be – Pasco, WA**
 - Description: This training included four sessions: Improved Client Communication, Better Trials through Motion Practice, Storytelling, and Calling Out Prosecutorial Misconduct.
 - Feedback: “The motions practice CLE (including the supplied materials) are excellent.”, “We have already put the motions into use-- and have already subpoenaed or requested the files and information the DV advocate who is employed by the prosecutor’s office! VERY USEFUL! THANK YOU”. Speakers rated an average of 4/5 stars.