

DIA Spring 2006 Conference / Seminar

The War on Drugs

Featured Speakers

David Dworakowski As Assistant Public Defender for Orange County, he currently heads the central court branch and is heavily involved in the training and supervision of new lawyers. As a trial lawyer, David spent years representing our clients in matters ranging from misdemeanors to homicides. He is admired and respected by his staff and his peers. He was a well received featured speaker at the fall 2005 DIA conference on Gangs where he imparted practical tools for handling eye-witness cases. This time, he will pass on pertinent information regarding drug related Health and Safety and Penal Codes we most frequently encounter. More importantly, he will engage us in a discussion on how to be effective in investigating these charges and helping to reduce them to lesser ones.

David Dziejowski is a successful trial lawyer with the Orange County Alternate Defender. His professionalism, dedication to his clients, and great sense of humor has helped him win over many a jury. He will help us understand issues related to investigating informant involved cases and police surveillance.

Judge Wendy S. Lindley was appointed to Orange County Municipal Court by Governor Wilson in 1994. She has served as the Drug Court Judge from 1994-present and she was the Presiding Judge for South Court from 1997-1998. She was the Vice President of the California Association of Drug Court Professionals in 1998. In 2003, she opened a Dual Diagnosis Drug Court. Judge Lindley runs a community outreach court for at risk Hispanic youth. In addition, she is the Co-chair of the Orange County Superior Court Collaborative Community Court Committee. Moreover, she sits on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Coalition for Comprehensive Mental Health Care. She is often invited by various organizations to speak on the issues of drug court. She has been invited to do the same for the DIA.

Matt McCormick is a dedicated Deputy Public Defender in Orange County. He is currently assigned to co-occurring disorder court (handling cases in which clients have both a pre-existing psychiatric condition and substance abuse issues) Prior to this assignment, Matt worked several years in the Mental Health department and he previously served our indigent clients on the felony panel. He will instruct the segments dealing with PC100, PC1210, and Dual Diagnosis.

Dr. John Treuting is a practicing and consulting Toxicologist. His areas of expertise include drug abuse in the workplace, interpretation of clinical and forensic toxicology test results, litigation support and expert testimony in civil and criminal cases. For 12 years, he was the president and CEO of Forensic Toxicology Associates. His previous experience is too vast to consolidate into a paragraph. At DITA IV 2005, he taught the Toxicology class while dispensing humor and information simultaneously. He will speak

on drug classification, intake and metabolism, drug testing, DUI, and other toxicology related matters.

Dr. Forest Tennant, A national leader in the field of drug rehabilitation, Dr. Tennant is the author of more than 300 scientific papers, books and videos on the subjects of neurochemistry and drug dependence. He was the Executive Director of the Research Center for Chronic Pain and Dependency Disorders and the Executive Director of the Community Health Projects Medical Group. He has served as a Public Health Fellow for the U.S. Public Health Service, as an Associate Professor at the UCLA School of Public Health, and was a member of the Drug Abuse Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration. He also served as a Narcotics Training Consultant for the California Highway Patrol and the California Department of Justice. As a Drug Advisor, he served the National Football League, the Los Angeles Dodgers, and NASCAR. He will be speaking to us on the physiology and psychology of Addiction.

Jose Varela is currently the Assistant Public Defender for Marin County. He previously worked for the San Diego County Alternate Public Defender where he handled serious felony cases, including death penalty cases. He has been a frequent speaker at California Public Defender Association seminars and has also been a past speaker at CDIA seminars and at DITA. His involvement with CDIA goes back many years. He helped set the foundation for the original DITA curriculum and worked with DITA faculty members to create meaningful and dynamic classes. As a speaker his goal is to deliver information in an interesting and “street” relevant way. In his talk, he will focus not only on the law of search and seizure but also on how defense witness searches are the groundwork for a successful attack on illegal police action.

Rick Serrato has worked as a Santa Ana Police Officer for the past 25 years, 17 of which have been on a Narcotics unit. He is currently the Chairperson of The California Narcotic Officer’s Association. He was the 2002 recipient of the Alfred Stewart Award exemplifying dedicated service and personal achievement in drug enforcement. A Drug Recognition Expert, he has testified in hundreds of cases. Rick is also active in teaching various law enforcement agencies on drug related issues. At the DIA conference, he will present information and materials offering us tangible lesson in narcotics, paraphernalia, and related terms.

George Williams from the Los Angeles Delancy Street house will discuss Alternate Dispositions and the road to recovery and rehabilitation. He has important information on how our clients can apply for the program and what happens once they are accepted.