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## Juvenile Law

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026 | 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
6.0 total CLE hrs. | Meets Indigent Defense Reimbursement

Register for [Webcast](#)

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### DESCRIPTION

Gain critical insights into juvenile justice issues with this comprehensive CLE program tailored for juvenile law attorneys and planned in conjunction with the Ohio Bar Juvenile Law Committee. This program will cover topics including case law updates, exposure to violent extremism, juvenile competency, building rapport with clients and childhood trauma.

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### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Charles S. Bergman, Esq.; Planning Chair; Chair, Juvenile Law Committee; Wood County Prosecutors Office; Bowling Green  
Charlyn E. Bohland, Esq.; Office of the Ohio Public Defender; Columbus  
Sara R. Chisnell, Esq.; Licking County Prosecutors Office; Newark  
Hon. David A. Hejmanowski; Delaware County Court of Common Pleas Probate/Juvenile Division; Delaware  
Hon. Kathleen S. Lenski; Magistrate; Montgomery County Juvenile Court; Dayton  
Rebecca S. King-Newman, Esq.; Mercer County Prosecutors Office; Celina

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### PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:30**            **Legislative and Case Law Update**  
In the ever-changing landscape of our work, practitioners must be aware of updates to legislation and case law. This session will educate viewers on recent updates and insight on anticipated developments in both.  
*Hon. David A. Hejmanowski; Delaware County Court of Common Pleas Probate/Juvenile Division; Delaware*
- 10:00**           **Break**
- 10:15**           **The Rising Threat of Nihilistic Violent Extremism**  
Det. Chris Betts with the Columbus Police's Counterterrorism Unit and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and analyst Alexandra Trame with Ohio Homeland Security's Terrorism Analysis Unit will brief on a new ideological movement called nihilistic violent extremism (NVE) targeting youth online, and what to look for in

regard to this type of extremism. Presenters will provide an overview of NVEs, an explanation of the online ecosystem in which they operate, the various sub-groups within the network, tactics employed to corrupt and exploit victims and relevant case studies. The session will also include insight into potential indicators and warning signs that participants can refer back to.

As a warning, graphic content will be discussed as part of this presentation.

*Det. Chris Betts; Counter Terrorism Unit, Columbus Division of Police; Columbus Alexandra Trame; Acting Intelligence Manager, Terrorism Analysis Unit, Ohio Homeland Security; Columbus*

- 11:15**      **Revolutionizing Child Welfare: Sandusky County Group Home Initiative – a Strategic Evolution From Treatment Foster Care**  
We'll discuss how the Sandusky County Group Home Initiative has pioneered treatment foster care innovation, demonstrated family-based care excellence and built strong community partnerships. Going forward, this initiative will expand the continuum of care, meet the needs of youth requiring higher levels of support and maintain a trauma-informed, family-focused philosophy.  
*Melanie Allen; Director, Sandusky County Department of Job and Family Services; Fremont*
- 11:45**      **Lunch**
- 12:45**      **Juvenile Competency: Development, Evaluation Process and Outpatient Attainment Services**  
This session will provide an overview of how juvenile competency evaluations are conducted in Ohio, including statutory requirements, assessment approaches and key developmental factors that influence a youth's functional legal abilities. We'll also review how outpatient competency attainment (OCA) services operate in practice and outline what attorneys can expect throughout the process, including opportunities for effective collaboration.  
*Shannon L. Porter, Psy.D., ABPP; Forensics, Netcare Forensic Center, Director of Forensic and Specialized Assessment Services; Columbus*  
*E.E. White, Psy.D.; Assistant Director of Forensic and Specialized Assessment Services, Netcare Forensic Center; Columbus*
- 1:45**      **Trauma-Informed Rapport Building With Court-Involved Youth**  
Combining legal and social work practices can enhance psychoeducation and provide tools for trauma-informed engagement and assessment with young clients. This session will enhance knowledge and skillsets in communicating with, counseling and advocating for traumatized system-involved youth, while also helping advocates learn skills to help build a holistic and collaborative attorney-client relationship.  
*Jilian L. Weithman, Esq.; Office of the Ohio Public Defender; Columbus*  
*Heather Wise; Social Work Supervisor, Trial Services Division; Office of the Ohio Public Defender; Columbus*

**2:45**      **Break**

**3:00**      **The Prevalence of Child Abuse and Trauma Among Children Prosecuted as Adults**

This session will discuss the results of a first-of-its-kind study on the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and childhood trauma among people incarcerated in state prisons for crimes they committed as children. The presenters will also outline strategies for how to best represent juvenile clients with high ACEs scores.

*Charlyn E. Bohland, Esq.; Office of the Ohio Public Defender; Columbus*  
*Kimberly P. Jordan, J.D.; The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law; Columbus*

*Aiden Lesley; Human Rights for Kids; Washington, D.C.*

**4:00**      **Conclusion**