

Cultural Mindfulness Storytelling: Capturing the Lived Experiences of our Clients

With Lori James-Townes, MSW

Wed June 2, 2021 at 1p - 2:30p | 1.5 CLE

Familiarity and sensitivity to culture is relevant to many questions regarding effective public defense representation, including:

- How do clients' cultural backgrounds affect what they are willing to tell their defense teams, how they communicate, or what kind of defenses can be raised in court?
- How are certain practices or actions that are criminal offenses in our state and country handled or perceived in immigrants' home countries?
- How do different communities or neighborhoods perceive the criminal justice system and public defense team?
- How do defense teams build a trusting relationship with their clients or witnesses who may have information critical to effective defense representation?

If you don't consider the above factors in representation, you may find yourself in the middle of an ethical dilemma. Sessions Goals: This session will lead us in discussions that will increase our knowledge and awareness of the importance of sharing our client's unique story. You will learn ways to gather the story in a culturally informed way. From small group discussions you will learn from others' experiences and challenges when addressing cultural barriers.

Register at www.sado.org/go/culture

Questions? Contact mdavid@sado.org



Lori James-Townes, MSW

Lori is President & CEO of Expand-Now, LLC. She also serves as an Assistant Training Director for National Association of Public Defense. Lori's passion is adding value to others through speaking, training, development activities, coaching and consulting. Lori has over 25 years of teaching, clinical social work, leadership, and management experience in juvenile justice, mental health, and public defender settings. Her most recent public defender position was Director of Social Work, Leadership and Program Development, with Maryland Office of Public Defender. With over more than 800 employees, she served as one of the first Directors of Leadership in a public defender setting. While in this position, she demonstrated her ability to help others grow in the areas of teamwork, leadership, and management. She also led the agency's social work staff, consultants, and interns. She is an adjunct clinical instructor at Towson University, Department of Family Studies and Community Development. Lori is a certified John Maxwell Trainer, Coach and Speaker. She has developed programs that are now national models for other agencies. In 2015, The Daily Record Newspaper named her as one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. As a speaker, she is requested both nationally and internationally. She resides in Maryland with her daughter, Maya.

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