NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
LAUREN PETTY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

LUNCH and LEARN
Noncitizens & Detention: Strategies for Handling ICE Detainers and Bench Warrants

1.2 NJ CLE Credits; 1 PA CLE Credits
in person at OPD Training Room, 31 Clinton St. 5th Fl., Newark, NJ
or virtual (via Zoom webinar)

Thursday, December 17, 2026
12:30-1:30 pm

AGENDA

Presenters:

Kathleen Kraft, Asst. Deputy Public Defender, OPD Immigration Unit
Alexandra Marek, Asst. Deputy Public Defender, Appellate

Topics:

1. Introduction to ICE Detainers
    a. How to read an ICE detainer.
2. New Jersey Immigrant Trust Act
    a. Protections and detainer limitations.
3. Bench Warrants
    a. Avoiding issuance of bench warrants for noncitizens in ICE custody / already removed.
4. Appearances from ICE custody
    a. Requesting virtual or physical production of a client
5. Motion to Dismiss for Speedy Trial

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER (OPD)
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
LAUREN PETTY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

Noncitizens & Detention: Strategies for Handling ICE Detainers and Bench Warrants

1.2 NJ CLE Credits; 1 PA CLE Credits
in person at OPD Training Room, 31 Clinton St. 5th Fl., Newark, NJ
or virtual (via Zoom webinar)

Thursday, December 17, 2026
12:30-1:30 pm

PRESENTERS

Kathleen Kraft, Esq.

Kathleen Kraft is an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in the Immigration Unit at the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender (NJOPD). She provides *Padilla* advice to public defenders across her assigned counties, assessing the immigration consequences of criminal charges and convictions and advising throughout plea negotiations.

During her first two years at NJOPD, she served as the assigned *Padilla* attorney to the Office of Parental Representation, advising on the immigration consequences of DCP&P involvement and family court proceedings. She currently serves as the assigned Padilla attorney for Post-Conviction Relief (PCR), advising public defenders on immigration consequences in PCR matters. She also provides continuing legal education (CLE) training to public defenders on immigration law and issues arising from its intersection with criminal law.

Prior to joining NJOPD, she practiced corporate and immigration law at law firms in Munich, Germany, and Princeton, New Jersey.

Alexandra Marek, Esq.

Alex Marek graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law in May 2023 and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Douglas M. Fasciale of the Supreme Court of New Jersey during the 2023-2024 court term. She joined the Office of the Public Defender as an appellate attorney in 2024, where she represents clients in their criminal appeals before the Appellate Division and Supreme Court of New Jersey. Alex also serves as an appellate liaison to the Immigration Unit and contributes to statewide immigration projects that provide comprehensive support to non-citizen clients facing criminal charges or convictions.