

ANNUAL SUPPORT STAFF 50 CONFERENCE

APRIL 13 – 15, 2026
LIVE! CASINO | BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111

LOUISIANA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION 50th Annual Support Staff Training Conference Live! Casino & Hotel, Bossier City, LA

April 13-15, 2026

AGENDA OUTLINE (Subject to Change)

MONDAY, APRIL 13

11:00-5:30 **REGISTRATION**

1:00-1:15 **Welcome & Announcements**

Honorable Schuyler Marvin, 26th Judicial District – Bossier Parish, LA

1:15-2:15 **SESSION #1 KARPEL Solutions**

Join us for a lively discussion to see the latest features of PROSECUTORbyKarpel.

Mr. Jeff Karpel, CEO/Software Architect

Karpel Solutions, St. Louis, MO

2:15-2:30 **BREAK**

2:30-3:30 **SESSION #2 Writing with Purpose: Legal Communication for Non-Attorneys**

Effective communication is essential to the success of any district attorney's office. This session is designed specifically for support staff and will focus on strengthening written and verbal communication with attorneys. From understanding legal terminology and abbreviated lingo to crafting clear, concise correspondence, attendees will gain practical tools to bridge communication gaps, improve workflow, and confidently support the attorneys they work alongside every day.

Mr. Chance Nerren, Assistant District Attorney

26th Judicial District, Benton, LA

3:30-3:45 **BREAK**

3:45- 5:00 **SESSION #3 Lessons Learned: Female Leaders on Navigating Law Enforcement**

This panel brings together four accomplished professionals from district attorney offices to share candid insights from their careers in law enforcement. Through real-world stories, challenges overcome, and lessons gained along the way, panelists will offer practical guidance and encouragement for those seeking to grow and succeed in the field.

Mrs. Kelly Downey, Detective

Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office, Benton, LA

Detective Karen McDonald, Violent Crimes Detective

Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, Minden, LA

Mrs. Angela Hall, Former Support Staff Supervisor

26th Judicial District, Minden, LA

*Ms. Anna Garcie, 1st Assistant District Attorney
11th Judicial District, Many, LA*

6:00-10:00 LDAA MEET AND GREET – SOCIAL FUNCTION

Join us for an evening of music, mingling, and well-deserved fun! Enjoy great food and drinks, strike a pose at the photobooth, reconnect with colleagues from across the state, and hit the dance floor with our live DJ!

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

8:00-2:00 REGISTRATION

8:00-9:00 SESSION #4 Personal Safety Class

Attend this session to learn: Five powerful situational awareness tips to avoid threats or looking like an easy target. Critical steps to take to keep yourself safe (no matter what happens next). How to mentally and legally prepare yourself for a self-defense situation and the aftermath. Choosing the right tool: Intro to firearms and other Use of Force options.

Mr. Colby Bullock, Account Executive

Delta Defense, Thibodaux, LA

Mr. Austin Williams, District Sales Manager

United States Concealed Carry Association, Thibodaux, LA

9:00-9:15 BREAK

9:15-10:15 SESSION #5 Trial-Ready: How Support Staff Power the Courtroom

Hugo is coming up on 40 years in the business, with a couple hundred jury trials under his belt. He will give helpful hints on assisting your ADA prepare for her next jury trial.

Mr. Hugo Holland, Assistant District Attorney

26th Judicial District, Shreveport, LA

10:15-10:30 BREAK

10:30-11:30 SESSION #6 Color Your Calm: A Stress Free Watercolor Session

Research suggests that experiencing art and creativity, even for a few minutes a day, has tangible effects on our mental and physical health. Engaging in art helps slow cognitive decline, reduces the risk of heart disease and increases well-being as we age. Creating art is as important as our diet, health, exercise, and being in nature. In this session, you will create multiple watercolor postcards through step by step lessons. All materials will be provided. The paint is washable, so no need for an outfit change. We believe in your ability to paint!

Ms. M. W. Smith, Assistant District Attorney

20th Judicial District, Clinton, LA

11:30-12:30 WORKING LUNCH - TO BE PROVIDED

12:30-1:00 SESSION #7 Move It or Lose It: Office Stretches That Actually Help

Join a talented yoga instructor for a guided session focused on simple, office-friendly stretches you can do right at your desk. Designed to help break up the strain of sitting for hours at a time, this session will introduce easy movements that relieve tension, improve posture, and keep your body feeling energized throughout the workday.

Ms. Stacy Edwards, Certified Yoga Instructor

Shreveport, LA

1:00-1:30 SESSION #8 Ourso Financial Group

This session will explore how retirement benefits can serve as a valuable tool for employee retention within district attorney offices. Presenters Mason and Darrell will discuss the advantages of participating in the Deferred Compensation Program, including important tax benefits and long-term financial planning strategies. Attendees will also learn about opportunities for group meetings within DA offices and one-on-one consulting by appointment, while recognizing the continued support of LDAA employees across the state.

Mr. Darrell Ourso, Founder and LPL Financial Advisor

Ourso Financial Group, Baton Rouge, LA

Mr. Mason Terrell, LPL Financial Advisor
Ourso Financial Group, Baton Rouge, LA

1:30-1:45 **BREAK**

1:45-2:45 **SESSION #9 AI in the Justice System: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How to Use It Wisely**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping the way legal professionals research, draft, organize, and communicate. But what does AI actually do, how does it “learn,” and where does it fit inside a District Attorney’s office? This session provides a clear, accessible explanation of how modern AI systems work, what their strengths and limitations are, and how they are already influencing the justice system. Participants will learn practical techniques for using AI tools more effectively, including foundational prompt strategies, common misconceptions to avoid, and critical guidelines for responsible use. The goal is not to replace human judgment, but to strengthen it. Attendees will leave with a grounded understanding of AI and actionable strategies they can apply immediately in their daily work.

Dr. Blaine Fisher, Professor of Information Technology, Emergency Management, and Anthropology. Instructional Technology Guru – Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

AFTERNOON FREE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

8:00-12:00 **REGISTRATION**

8:00-9:00 **SESSION #10 Code of Governmental Ethics**

The purpose of Louisiana government ethics training is to ensure the integrity and transparency of government operations. It aims to protect the public's confidence in the government by preventing conflicts of interest and ensuring that public office and employment are not used for private gain.

*Mr. Curtis Nelson, Deputy Director
Louisiana District Attorneys Association, Baton Rouge, LA*

9:00-9:15 **BREAK**

9:15-10:15 **SESSION #11 PERS 101**

Join us for a member-focused overview of your retirement benefits---membership basics, service credit, eligibility, and how your benefit is calculated. We'll also cover DROP, types of beneficiaries, and key deadlines, with time for Q&A.

*Ms. Kristi Spinosa, PERS Director & General Counsel
Parochial Retirement System, Baton Rouge, LA
Ms. London Baudoin, Executive Staff Officer
Parochial Retirement System, Baton Rouge, LA*

10:15-10:30 **BREAK**

10:30-11:30 **SESSION #12 The Moral Compass – Brady/Discovery**

This session will provide an overview of how Brady obligations intersect with discovery obligations, focusing on the importance of fulfilling these obligations to ensure that justice is done in every case.

*Mr. Andrew Jacobs, Assistant District Attorney
26th Judicial District, Benton, LA*

11:30-12:00 **BUSINESS MEETING**

Short and sweet! Do you have comments and / or suggestions on this or future Conferences? Would you like to be on the Support Staff Training Committee which assists the LDAA in planning future agendas? We encourage you to attend this meeting and help us make some decisions.

12:00 **ADJOURN**