



CORE 101

The Gideon's Promise mission is to transform the criminal legal system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities. The 3-year CORE 101 Program is at the center of this effort to create zealous, client-centered change agents.

OUR MODEL:

The CORE 101 program has three distinct goals: to instill a client-centered value system, to provide attorneys with top notch training, and to build a network of public defenders who seek to change the field of public defense.

VALUES: The CORE 101 program curriculum teaches a client-centered approach to defending, and seeks to promote this vision across the criminal justice system.



SKILLS: Talented and experienced public defenders from around the country serve as faculty to teach CORE 101 students the skills necessary to provide excellent representation.

COMMUNITY: The CORE 101 community provides defenders with a network of individuals to support them in their efforts to provide client-centered representation. As this community grows, it will serve as a powerful force for change within the public defender community.

"Community is vital to the sustainability of a career in public defense. [The Gideon's Promise] movement is so important to me because I want to draw on this network of public defenders for guidance and inspiration."

-Emily Lubin, CORE 101 Class of 2019



THE PROGRAM

SUMMER INSTITUTE

The CORE 101 Program begins with a two-week intensive training in August for new public defenders.

Much of training takes place in workshops with low student-to-faculty ratios in which hands on learning is emphasized. Participants are often on their feet doing in-court simulations and role-playing exercises, after which a faculty member might lead a facilitated discussion about the exercise.

In addition to providing top-notch criminal defense instruction, Summer Institute is intended to instill a sense of public defender pride among attendees, while building community both among new public defenders and between new public defenders and their more experienced counterparts.

To this end, each incoming CORE 101 member is assigned a **mentor** who has graduated from the CORE 101 program.



MENTORSHIP

The CORE 101 mentorship program is a crucial component of the Gideon's Promise community. CORE 101 graduates who sign up to mentor new CORE 101 members receive mentoring and advanced trial skills training. Thus, the mentorship program allows alumnae to stay involved in the community while providing incoming members with invaluable support and guidance.

In 2020, over 50% of the graduating CORE 101 class expressed an interest in mentoring the incoming class, resulting in a total of 95 available mentors.



"[I] very much appreciate that [mentors] were willing to share personal anecdotes and provide real world examples of times when they have personally struggled. It is not easy to be vulnerable and share personal thoughts/feelings of anxiety... but for the first time in a long time I realized I am not alone. To feel validated and understood by such well respected and experienced attorneys was even more powerful."

- CORE 101 Class of 2019 mentee

RETURNER WEEKENDS

Following the two-week summer institute, CORE 101 members return for a weekend of training and community celebration every six-months for the next three years.

These weekends, which occur every January and August, provide an opportunity to reconnect with CORE 101 classmates and forge new connections with CORE 101 members from different classes while brushing up on critical skills.

Attorneys pick from a variety of sessions, many of which are eligible for CLE credit.

"The sense of community and love felt as we gather to hone trial skills...keep[s] us motivated and charged for at least the next 6 months until we see each other again."

-W. Devin Franklin
Gideon's Promise Trainer,
CORE 101 Class of 2010

CORE 101 Returner Sessions

"Our Clients, Their Stories: Preparing Clients to Testify"

"Storytelling Through Jury Instructions"

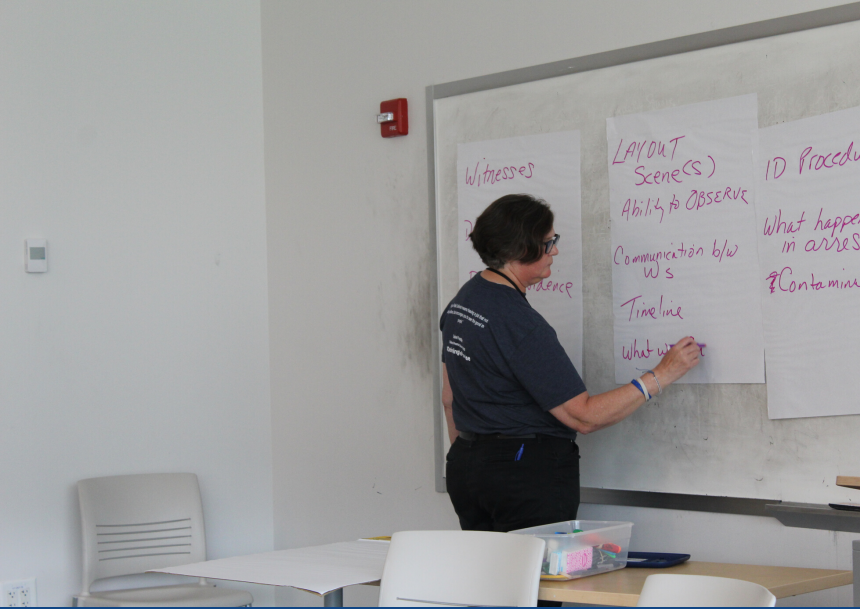
"Bargaining: Negotiations in Criminal Court"

"Strategies for Establishing Trust and Building Meaningful Relationships with Black Male Clients"

"Humanizing Clients While Maintaining Healthy Boundaries"

"Litigating a DNA Case"

"Public Defender, Zen Optional"



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Mark Loudon-Brown
Attorney in the Capital Litigation Unit at the Southern Center for Human Rights. Former Supervising Attorney at the Bronx Defenders. Teaches "Litigating Forensic Sciences Cases."



Heather Pinckney
Partner at Harden & Pinckney. Former deputy trial chief at the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia. Teaches "Crossing the Cops" and "Crossing the Cooperator."

AFTER CORE 101

The Gideon's Promise Class of 2019 included 67 public defenders from 14 states across the country

Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Student Center



Upon graduating from the CORE 101 Program, alumnae can maintain involvement in the Gideon's Promise movement through the Trainer Development Program, Leadership Trainings and Mentorship. These programs convene yearly or bi-yearly, and allow the Gideon's Promise community to maintain connections with each other while bringing the Gideon's Promise model with them.

TRAINER DEVELOPMENT

The Trainer Development Program introduces experienced public defenders to the CORE 101 Summer Institute curriculum, and then trains them to teach this material to others. Trainers return to their offices and use the Gideon's Promise model to create stronger lawyers.

LEADERSHIP

The Leadership Summit Program targets defenders in leadership roles. Leaders across the country come together to learn and practice management skills, and share strategies for shaping office cultures. These leaders will use their leadership training to promote a client-centered mentality within their offices.

Ultimately, CORE 101 graduates create systemic change as they assume leadership positions at offices across the country, bringing their Gideon's Promise training and philosophy with them:



DREW WILLEY
CEO & FOUNDER, RESTORING JUSTICE



MARTESHA JOHNSON
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER, NASHVILLE DEFENDERS



AISHA MCWEAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STILL SHE RISES

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

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