



## Supporting Neurodivergent Clients in the Criminal Justice System and Beyond

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2026

Approved for 3.5 CLE credits (2.0 Law & Legal Procedure + 1.5 Other)

\$159 - Standard

\$129 - New Members\*

Washington State Bar Association

1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101

WEBCAST  
ONLY

### DESCRIPTION

***Access to Justice is a fundamental civil right protected under both the U.S. and Washington Constitutions.***

For criminal defendants who are also neurodivergent, navigating the legal system can present additional and often compounding challenges. In this seminar, presenters will share programs, current research and practical guidance on how legal professionals can best support clients with autism spectrum disorder throughout the criminal justice process. The program will also highlight how animal-assisted therapy can play a meaningful role in personal growth and skill-building for neurodivergent individuals as animal trainers and owners.

The seminar will conclude with an interactive Q&A led by a moderator with lived experience, offering attendees an opportunity to engage directly with the material and deepen their understanding.

#### MODERATORS

**Dante Pollard and Deborah Espinosa**  
- *Living With Convictions, Seattle*

### SCHEDULE

**12:40 p.m. > Webcast Log-In Opens**

**12:55 p.m. > Welcome and Introductions**

- **Jennifer Holderman** - *Washington State Bar Association, Seattle*

**1:00 p.m. > Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder and Its Impacts on Criminal Justice Outcomes**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP**

This presentation draws from existing research to equip attorneys with knowledge and tools surrounding cases and interactions involving individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specifically, it will discuss how to recognize and understand the distinctive characteristics of offending and courtroom behavior that may be exhibited in cases involving defendants with ASD, as well as guidance on aspects of the legal process in which ASD may be forensically significant for defendants, particularly in sentencing decisions involving incarceration. Further, it will also discuss recent work that shows how defense attorneys think about and approach advocacy and representation in cases involving defendants with ASD. By providing evidence and resources to recognize and understand the symptoms of ASD, this knowledge will enable attorneys to have more beneficial interactions with defendants with ASD, as well as provide more impactful advocacy and representation for these populations.

- **Dr. Carolina Ribeiro Caliman** - *University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL*
- **Dr. Colleen Berryessa** - *Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Piscataway, NJ*

**2:00 p.m. > How Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAI) can help Neurodivergent Participants within the Criminal Justice System**

**60 minutes, 1.0 credits Other—Improving the Legal System**

This session will provide an overview of the different types of animal-assisted interventions (AAI) most commonly being used within the American criminal justice system. It will share research on the benefits of these programs and describe how these programs are serving to support neurodivergent participants. It will conclude with recommendations for how AAI programs could be modified or expanded to better address some of the systemic challenges that neurodivergent people face within the criminal justice system.

- **Shawn Crincoli** - *Brigadoon Service Dogs, Bellingham*

# WSBA CLE #26150 WEB

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## SCHEDULE

**3:00 p.m. > BREAK**

**3:15 p.m. > Autism in the Courtroom - Ensuring Justice for All**  
60 minutes, 1.0 credits L&LP

People with autism appear in every role within a judicial proceeding. Without awareness of these clients and their needs, outcomes are inevitably unjust. During this presentation, participants will analyze the impact of court systems that weren't built with neurodivergent access in mind and create strategies to address these barriers. Focus will be paid to the intersectionality of gender, LGBTQI, race and diagnosis.

- **Joslyn Nelson** - *Washington Administrative Office of the Courts*

**4:15 p.m. > Apply These Techniques: Chat with Practitioners**  
30 minutes, 0.5 credits, *Other—Improving the Legal System*

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- **Dr. Carolina Ribeiro Caliman** - *University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL*
- **Dr. Colleen Berryessa** - *Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Piscataway, NJ*
- **Shawn Crincoli** - *Brigadoon Service Dogs, Bellingham*
- **Moderators: Dante Pollard and Deborah Espinosa** - *Living With Convictions, Seattle*

**4:45 p.m. > Adjourn • Complete Online Evaluations**

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Tuesday, June 9, 2026 • #26150 WEB

## REGISTRATION

To register online, please go to the [registration page](#). Click to add to cart and complete your purchase. You may pay by credit card, or via ACH. Alternatively, you may print and mail an invoice seven business days prior to the program along with your check payable to WSBA. Credit card payments by mail or fax are no longer accepted. Note, our service provider will charge you a separate, non-refundable transaction fee of 2.5% on all bank card transactions.

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, applicable sales tax will be applied to all live seminar registrations (in-person or virtual). For more information, refer to changes to [Washington sales tax law](#).

If special accommodations are needed, please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) or call toll-free at 1-800-945-9722.

Please omit my name from the networking list made available to exhibitors and/or attendees.

## PRICING INFORMATION

#26150 WEB, attend via webcast, 6/9/26

\$159 - Standard

\$129 - New Members\*

*\*Active members of the Washington State Bar Association will be considered New Members through the calendar end of the tenth year following admittance to practice in the state. The store will automatically discount registration, if applicable, during checkout.*

### Seminar Registration Transfers, Refunds and Cancellations

In most circumstances, if you cannot attend the live event, we can transfer your registration to the on-demand product, once available (8-10 weeks from the program delivery date). Generally, for webcast/webinar registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed up to the start of the event. For in-person registrations, tuition fees may be refunded, less \$25 for processing, for written cancellations postmarked, emailed, or faxed by 5 p.m. up to three business days before the event. No refunds will be provided after the dates specified. You may also send a substitute in lieu of canceling. *When applicable, specific exceptions to these policies will be noted on individual event registration pages.* Please email [cle@wsba.org](mailto:cle@wsba.org) with any requests or questions.

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