

Jennifer Sellitti

Jennifer Sellitti is Director of Training & Communications for the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender (OPD), where she is responsible for teaching trial advocacy and substantive law to defenders in all the agency's practice areas. She works on special projects that impact OPD clients including police accountability, jury selection reform, and pretrial justice reform. Jennifer created OPD's Forensic Science Workgroup and oversees the agency's burgeoning forensic practice. She serves as the agency's media spokesperson and works to promote public policy issues. Jennifer also represents people charged with serious felonies at trial and advocates at resentencing hearings on behalf people serving lengthy sentences for crimes committed as juveniles.

Prior to her appointment to director, Jennifer was the managing attorney of the Middlesex Trial Region and an assistant deputy public defender in the Essex County Adult Region. She worked as a staff attorney for the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Massachusetts before joining OPD. Jennifer began her legal career at Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, where she worked on the organization's Prison Brutality Project investigating claims of prison violence and representing inmates housed in solitary confinement at super maximum-security prisons in civil rights lawsuits against correctional facilities and individual officers.

Jennifer is a faculty member at several trial advocacy programs including the prestigious National Criminal Defense College. She has trained lawyers in more than 35 states and speaks nationally about trial advocacy and criminal legal system reform for organizations such as the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Forensic College, Gideon's Promise, National Association of Public Defense, and state and local public defender agencies. She is a trustee of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey and serves on the Advisory Board of New Jersey Institute of Technology's Forensic Science Major. She served as an advisor to the Jury Selection and Implicit Bias Committees of the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Selection, and advisor to Governor Phil Murphy's Body Worn Camera Commission and serves on the advisory board to the New Jersey Attorney General's Conviction Review Unit. A graduate of Suffolk University Law School, Jennifer obtained a B.S. degree in public relations from Boston University.

In her spare time, Jennifer and her partner operate D/V Tenacious, a dive vessel that discovers, explores, and salvages shipwrecks in the North Atlantic. Jennifer is a certified diver and a U.S. Coast Guard licensed ship captain.