

2025 Palm Beach County Bar Association's Bench Bar Conference
March 7, 2025



CRIMINAL LAW SESSION II

Best Practices in Criminal Law

Time: 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

This 60-minute session will focus on best practices in criminal law with an emphasis on ethics and professionalism. The panelists for this session—which include judges from the county and circuit court criminal divisions as well as representatives from the Public Defender and State Attorney offices—will provide their perspectives on various topics related to criminal law practice such as effective communications between parties, efficiency in morning docket, and motion practice.

Panelists: Judge August Bonavita, Judge Stephanie Tew, Judge Cymonie Rowe, Judge Scott Suskauer, Public Defender Daniel Eisinger, Assistant State Attorney Adrienne Ellis

Moderator: Benjamin Eisenberg, Esq.

- A. Welcome and introduction of moderator and panelists
- B. The panelists will discuss their roles as judges and attorneys, including how many years they have been practicing law, their career backgrounds, and how these differing backgrounds have influenced their views on the practice of criminal law.
- C. Each panelist will discuss an ethical or professional issue they themselves have seen during their time on the bench or within the practice of criminal law. The panelists will then describe how that issue could have been dealt with better or how they would the parties could have handled the matter in a more effective manner.
- D. During a question and answer session, each panelist will provide their perspectives for the best handling of criminal courts and address topics such as effective communications practices, efficiency in morning docket, and motion practice.
- E. The attorneys, if time permits, can ask the panelists questions or share an experience that affected them regarding ethical issues they experience in practicing criminal law.