



HONORABLE ROSLYNN R.
MAUSKOPF
Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

LEE ANN BENNETT
Deputy Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

CAIT T. CLARKE
Chief
Defender Services Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 6, 2021

TO: CJA Panel Attorneys/Staff and Federal Defender Attorneys/Staff

FROM: Frank Draper, Chief, Defender Services Office Training Division

RE: The Andrea Taylor Sentencing Advocacy Workshop (Virtual)



The Defender Services Office Training Division (DSOTD) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the virtual iteration of The Andrea Taylor Sentencing Advocacy Workshop. The virtual workshop will be held on **Monday, October 18 through Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (EDT)** and will resume **Monday, October 25, and**

conclude Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 3:30 to 5:30 P.M. (EDT). This workshop is open to CJA panel attorneys/staff and federal defender attorneys/staff. Enrollment for this program is limited to 60 participants – priority will be given to those people who have not attended this workshop in the past. The workshop typically goes into wait list status very quickly, so early registration is encouraged.

Program Description

Do your sentencing submissions typically begin “NOW COMES defendant, by and through counsel, and hereby submits this sentencing memorandum in aid of sentencing”? Does the background portion of the submission begin with your client’s birthday and the crime committed? Do you feel like judges have a hard time understanding who your client really is and don’t see past the prior convictions? Do you wish your sentencing submissions read more like a New Yorker article and less like a Presentence Report? Interested in not just telling and writing your client’s story but also showing it in a sentencing video? Well, this program is designed to help incorporate all aspects of storytelling into persuasive sentencing advocacy – oral and written.

The Andrea Taylor Sentencing Advocacy Workshop focuses on a vital area of federal practice that has evolved since the Supreme Court declared the federal sentencing guidelines were advisory and no longer mandatory. Since approximately 97% of federal criminal cases continue to the sentencing phase, participation in the Sentencing Advocacy Workshop should not be missed. The Sentencing Advocacy Workshop teaches a comprehensive approach to sentencing where participants are trained to develop persuasive, fact based, sentencing theories, and they are provided with the advocacy skills necessary to advance their theories both in writing and during sentencing hearings. Presentations and demonstrations at the workshop include client relations and interviewing for mitigation, brainstorming the facts of the case, developing persuasive theories and themes, storytelling at sentencing, persuasive writing, and persuasive presentation.

The virtual iteration of the workshop consists of pre-recorded presentations and small live virtual group breakout sessions. In the small virtual group sessions, participants will use pending cases of their own to bust the facts, develop theories and themes, practice storytelling, persuasively write part of their sentencing memorandums and discuss how best to conduct sentencing hearings.

Please note that due to the workshop format of this program, participants must commit to attend all aspects of this workshop, *i.e.*, viewing all pre-recorded video presentations, and participating at all live virtual small group breakouts.

Register Today!

We are now using a registration system which does not require a log-in and password to register for our events. We ask that you use your work email address for registration purposes and to help eliminate duplication. Interested persons can register through [fd.org](https://event.me/D5G2eg), or by clicking on this URL or pasting into your browser: <https://event.me/D5G2eg>

If assistance is needed with registration, please email Rolan McClarry at Rolan_McClarry@ao.uscourts.gov. A copy of the draft agenda is attached, which is also available on the training events page of <http://www.fd.org/>.

Comments from Past Participants

Here are some participant comments from recent workshops:

“My client got time served today and walked out of the courthouse a free woman. That is truly thanks to all your help and advice [in this workshop].” “A special thank you to [the facilitators], for challenging me to dig deeper and put together what turned out to be a powerful sentencing memorandum.”

“An amazing program. I hope it continues well into the future.”

“The workshop blew me away.”

“Very invigorating and inspiring! I am so glad I signed up!”

“Thank you for the excellent training! I’m looking forward to using it in the courtroom and hope it produces below-the-guidelines sentences for my clients.”

Contact

Thank you for your interest in this very important workshop. Should you require any logistical information regarding this workshop, please email Rolan McClarry at Rolan_McClarry@ao.uscourts.gov. If you have questions about the content of this workshop, please email Joan Politeo at Joan_Politeo@ao.uscourts.gov.