Fundamentals of Federal Criminal Defense – Week 2
Breaking Out of the Cage: Bail Reform Act Fundamentals

a. **Date:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. EST

b. **Duration:** 90 minutes

c. **CLE Category:** General

d. **Description:**

This session will focus on how to keep your client out of jail. The bond stage is every bit as important as trial and sentencing and affects every other stage of the case. This session will break down how to conduct pretrial interviews that enable you to craft a compelling bond narrative, will demonstrate how to link your client’s story to the best aspects of the legal standard, and will ensure that you know the Bail Reform Act better than anyone else in the courtroom.

e. **Presenter:**

**ALISON SIEGLER** is a Clinical Professor of Law and the founder and director of the Federal Criminal Justice Clinic (FCJC), the nation’s first legal clinic solely devoted to representing indigent clients charged with federal felonies. The FCJC defends individual clients and pursues impact litigation in federal district court, in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and before the United States Supreme Court, and engages in legislative advocacy. Siegler received the Seventh Circuit Bar Association’s Justice John Paul Stevens Award for Outstanding Public Service Work in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in 2016, the American Constitution Society Chicago Chapter’s Ruth Goldman Award in 2014, and the Excellence in Public Interest Service Award from the US District Court and the Federal Bar Association in Chicago in 2012. She has also served on Senator Durbin’s screening committee for the selection of federal district court judges. She was previously a staff attorney with the
Federal Defender Program in Chicago, a Prettyman Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center’s Criminal Justice Clinic, and a law clerk for US District Judge Robert W. Gettleman. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale College, earned a JD from Yale Law School, and holds an LLM from Georgetown.

f. **Materials**: Written handout materials will be provided to participants.