Fundamentals of Federal Criminal Defense – Week 6

Getting the Most Out of Plea Agreements, Cooperation, and Navigating the Dangers of a Proffer

a. Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. EDT
b. Duration: 90 minutes
c. CLE Category: General
d. Description:

With an overwhelming percentage of clients entering pleas, this session will take a hard look at how to get the most out of deals with the government. Additionally, like it or not, many of our clients intelligently decide that cooperation is in their best interests. Unfortunately, proffer sessions can quickly devolve into train wrecks with clients getting no benefit and all the added risk we lose sleep over. This session explores common benefits and dangers associated with cooperation while addressing the many land mines just waiting for your client in the proffer room.

e. Presenter:

FREDILYN SISON – Where hasn’t Fredi worked? She’s been an Assistant Federal Defender in Omaha, Nebraska; Boise, Idaho; Reno, Nevada and Asheville, North Carolina, with side stops in Washington, DC as visiting counsel at the Defender Training Branch and at the U.S. Sentencing Commission. She’s in such high demand that she received a recruiting email asking her if she would like to be a legal assistant in an up and coming workers’ comp firm. She wrote back thanking them but she was having too much fun being an advocate for poor people and had to decline their lovely offer. Then she killed her LinkedIn account. An honors grad of Cornell University and New York University School of Law, Fredi has served on the faculty for numerous
programs around the country. Her favorite tag line during her teaching
sessions is, “You understand this is interactive, right?” To date, no one has
successfully slunk down low enough for her to not make eye contact. Fredi co-
authored Trial in Action: The Persuasive Power of Psychodrama and expects
to be an answer to a trivia question one day because of it. She’s written
article/chapters on various topics: child pornography, voir dire, cross
examination and the effects of incarceration on families. Her two passions are
psychodrama (where she’s certified as a practitioner, not to be confused with
being certified period) and Improv. She will play improv games all day if
allowed, and you’ll often hear her muttering, “Whoosh, Bang, Pow!”

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