



## **Fundamentals of Federal Criminal Defense – Week 7**

### **Sentencing Fundamentals: The Legal Framework**

- a. **Date:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. EDT
- b. **Duration:** 90 minutes
- c. **CLE Category:** General
- d. **Description:**

Each and every one of us representing individuals in federal court must understand sentencing. To be effective sentencing advocates, we must know our clients, our cases, and the legal framework that shapes and governs sentencing. This session focuses on the fundamentals of sentencing law, from the constitution, to the statutes, to the guidelines. Attendees will be introduced to 18 U.S.C. § 3553 and other relevant statutes. We also will tour the guidelines manual, with an eye towards understanding its basic structure and the theories on which it operates. A solid grasp of these basics will reveal there is both room and need for creative sentencing advocacy. It takes understanding this legal framework, where it is rigid and where it bends, to effectively advocate for the best possible outcomes for our clients.

- e. **Presenters:**

**JAYME FELDMAN** is an attorney with the National Sentencing Resource Counsel Project for the Federal Public and Community Defenders. Prior to joining Sentencing Resource Counsel, Jayme was an Appellate Assistant Federal Public Defender for the Western District of New York. Jayme earned her undergraduate degree from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University (B.S. 2007) and her law degree from the University at Buffalo Law School (J.D. 2010).

**LAURA MATE** is Director of the National Sentencing Resource Counsel Project for the Federal Public and Community Defenders (SRC). Laura is based

in Des Moines, Iowa. Before joining SRC, Laura was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Western District of Washington and an associate with Perkins Coie in Seattle. She received her J.D. from the University of Michigan and her B.A. from Kenyon College.

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