This is the first virtual *Non-Capital Sentencing Mitigation Skills Workshop*. In contrast to the in-person 2½-day program, this virtual program will engage participants in multiple ways from Monday, June 21 through Thursday, June 24, 2021.

Participants must bring their own pending federal case to this program.

This workshop will use a combination of pre-recorded presentations and live workshop sessions. Each recorded presentation will correspond with one or more of the workshop sessions, creating a unit. The presentation(s) corresponding to the workshop session *must* be viewed before attending the workshop session. For example, for Unit 1, before attending the live Workshop Session I, “Interviewing Skills,” on June 21, 2021, participants must view two 60-minutes presentations: Presentation I (*Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation*) and Presentation 2 (*Effective Interviewing for Mitigation*).

The recorded presentations will be available to view approximately one week before the corresponding live workshop session. Instructions for watching the videos and attending the workshop sessions will be provided in advance of the start of the program.

The four live 2.5-hour workshop sessions will be led by skilled facilitators in small group settings. As with our traditional in-person workshops, participants will get on their (virtual) feet and practice skills and receive peer feedback. To make it a better experience, everyone will be encouraged to turn their cameras on during small groups. These small group sessions will meet from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. (EDT), Monday, June 21 through Thursday, June 24, 2021.

We have a limited number of spots in this workshop; therefore, each participant must commit to timely watching the presentations (total of 7.25 hours) and to actively attend all live workshop sessions (total of 10 hours).

Thank you for joining us for the first virtual *Non-Capital Sentencing Mitigation Skills Workshop*!
UNIT 1: Presentations 1 & 2 must be viewed before attending Workshop Session 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Presentation 1: Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 minutes Pre-recorded</td>
<td>PRESENTATION 1: Storytelling: A Framework for Mitigation</td>
<td>Akin Adepoju, Attorney Advisor, Defender Services Office, Washington, DC Vickie Piontkowski, Mitigation Specialist, Pittsburgh, PA</td>
<td>At sentencing, every client’s story matters and how we tell that story can mean the difference between success and failure. This session focuses on effective storytelling techniques and its integration into persuasive sentencing advocacy to unlock compassion, empathy, and mercy.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Presentation 2: Effective Interviewing for Mitigation</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 minutes Pre-recorded</td>
<td>PRESENTATION 2: Effective Interviewing for Mitigation</td>
<td>Marcos Barbery, Mitigation Specialist, Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL Foongy Lee, Investigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA Susan Lin, Partner, Kairys, Rudovsky, Messing, Feinberg &amp; Lin, Philadelphia, PA Juval Scott, Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Virginia, Roanoke, VA Carlos Williams, Executive Director, Federal Defenders of the Southern District of Alabama, Mobile, AL</td>
<td>How do I uncover and develop the mitigating factors that will allow me to tell the client’s story in a persuasive manner? Interviewing. This session will focus on developing an effective relationship with your client and discuss numerous interviewing techniques that will allow you to obtain mitigating information from the client and other important people in your client’s life.</td>
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Live session Monday, 6/21 3:00-5:30 p.m. EDT | WORKSHOP SESSION 1: Interviewing Skills | | Participants will meet with their small group facilitators to practice their interviewing skills using their own cases and playing the part of their respective clients. |
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<tr>
<th>UNIT 2:</th>
<th>Presentations 3 &amp; 4 must be viewed before attending Workshop Session 2</th>
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| 60 minutes Pre-recorded | PRESENTATION 3: Developing Clients' Trust  
LaRonda Martin, Assistant Federal Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Tennessee, Jackson, TN  
Who am I representing? How do I distinguish her from the hundreds of other clients the court is sentencing? How do I discover and develop the information necessary to tell my client’s mitigation story? This session will discuss critical components of an effective mitigation investigation, including gathering records and interviewing considerations, with a focus on cultural competency concerns. |
| 60 minutes Pre-recorded | PRESENTATION 4: Locating and Analyzing Records for Mitigation Evidence  
Vickie Piontkowski, Mitigation Investigator, Pittsburgh, PA  
This session will provide an overview of the importance of records in developing mitigation evidence. Records are inherently credible because they were created by objective, neutral professionals long before the client faced criminal charges. They reveal sensitive information that clients and their family members are reluctant to disclose – and sometimes information that the client and their family members know nothing about. |
| Live session  
Tuesday, 6/22  
3:00-5:30 p.m. EDT | WORKSHOP SESSION 2: Locating and Analyzing Records  
Participants will meet with their small group facilitators to review the types of records and documents that are important to developing mitigation evidence. Participants will identify mitigation themes and potential mental health issues, hypotheses, questions, and brainstorm investigative follow-up tasks. |
UNIT 3: Presentation 5 & 6 must be viewed before attending the Workshop Session 3

60 minutes Pre-recorded

PRESENTATION 5: Writing the Story
Jay McEntire, Senior Litigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Washington & Idaho, Spokane, WA

This session will present the skills of writing an effective story and how to use persuasive techniques to tell our clients’ mitigation stories.

15 minutes Pre-recorded

PRESENTATION 6: Adding Spice to Writing
Marcos Barbery, Mitigation Specialist, Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL

This session will demonstrate simple but technical ways to breathe life into written materials. Submissions to court can include much more than words. Topics include how to insert or place graphics within our documents with a particular focus on the graphic design functions in Word such as pictures, SmartArt, screenshots, and other items that help tell our clients’ stories.

Live session

WORKSHOP SESSION 3: Writing Skills
Wednesday, 6/23 3:00-5:30 p.m. EDT

Participants will meet in their small breakout groups and apply storytelling and persuasive writing techniques to the facts of their cases. Before this workshop session, each participant will have written the first two to three paragraphs of their persuasive, storytelling sentencing memorandum or mitigation report. Participants will receive feedback on their writing and rewrite during the workshop session based on feedback received. Participants will also discuss incorporating more than words in their memoranda.
UNIT 4: Presentations 7 & 8 must be viewed before attending Workshop Session 4

60 minutes Pre-recorded

**PRESENTATION 7: Understanding Trauma**  
James Garbarino, Ph.D., Professor, Maude C. Clarke Chair in Humanistic Psychology, Loyola University, Chicago, IL

This session will discuss interviewing for trauma (without re-traumatizing the person), identifying common red flags that might indicate need for trauma informed care or further assessment, and how someone’s medical or psychological history or behavior shows the type of care needed.

60 minutes Pre-recorded

**PRESENTATION 8: Developing a Treatment Plan**  
Vivianne Guevara, Director of Client & Mitigation Services, Federal Defenders of New York, Inc., Brooklyn, NY  
Rena’ Ross, Investigator, Middle District of Alabama Federal Defenders Program, Inc., Montgomery, AL

This session will focus on the need to include a treatment plan that addresses the underlying issues often associated with criminal behavior and explore the development and use of community resources to influence sentencing outcomes. This session will include an example of a formal treatment plan presented to the court that includes a restorative justice aspect.

Live session Thursday, 6/24 3:00-5:30 p.m. EDT

**WORKSHOP SESSION 4: Developing treatment plans and sentences that meet our clients’ needs**

Participants meet with their small group to fashion appropriate sentencing requests and treatment plans that meet the client’s identified needs.
Additional Faculty

Norma Aguilar, *Assistant Federal Defender, Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., San Diego, CA*

Raúl Ayala, *Deputy Federal Public Defender, Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA*

Pamela Bishop, *Principal, Commonwealth Litigation Support Services, Inc., Ashland, VA*

Alejandro Fernandez, *First Assistant Federal Public Defender, District of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM*

Walter I. Gonçalves, Jr., *Third Level Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender, District of Arizona, Tucson, AZ*

Dana Harrison, *Investigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR*

Richard McWilliams, *Assistant Federal Defender, District of Nebraska, Omaha, NE*

Amy Skrien, *Investigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Missouri, St. Louis, MO*

Jessica Sutton, *Attorney and Mitigation Specialist, Boise, ID*

Mary Veral, *Investigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA*