



**THE ANDREA TAYLOR
SENTENCING ADVOCACY WORKSHOP**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS
DEFENDER SERVICES OFFICE TRAINING DIVISION**

**Charleston Marriott
170 Lockwood Drive
Charleston, South Carolina 29403**

July 14-16, 2022

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday, July 14, 2022

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Registration – Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Introduction to Workshop
William Nettles, IV, Federal Public Defender, District of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Rena Alt-Summers, CJA Panel Representative, District of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Michael Oppenheimer, Attorney Advisor, Training Division, Defender Services Office, Washington, DC

8:45 – 9:45 a.m. PLENARY SESSION: Fact-Busting the Case
Joseph Ross, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

This session will concentrate on the elements of fact-busting, using a mock case, to demonstrate techniques for mining the facts of a case in a manner that maximizes the potential of developing a persuasive sentencing theory.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION I: Fact-Busting the Case

Participants will meet with their small group facilitators to fact-bust their own cases as a basis for developing persuasive sentencing theories and themes.

Small groups assignments will be posted at the registration desk.

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch - On Your Own

1:15 – 3:00 p.m. PLENARY SESSIONS: Importance of Mitigation

Getting to Know Your Client & Interviewing for Mitigation

Cameron Blazer, Esq., Blazer Law Firm, Mount Pleasant, SC

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.

Locating and Analyzing Mitigation Documents

Luli Buxton, Mitigation Specialist, Federal Defender Services for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

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

This session will provide an overview of the importance of records in developing mitigation evidence. Records are inherently credible because objective, neutral professionals created them 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.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:45 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION II: Interviewing for Mitigation/Records Collection

Attendees will divide into small breakout groups to practice their mitigation interviewing skills and identify records needed in their cases.

4:45 – 5:45 p.m. PLENARY SESSION: Developing Persuasive Theories and Themes/Storytelling

Fredilyn Sison, *Assistant Federal Defender, Training Coordinator & Director, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, NC*

Having a theory for sentencing and supporting themes is critical to your organization of the case and forms the basis of your sentencing story. This session will define a theory and theme, and will address how to develop theories and themes and weave them into your story of mitigation for sentencing. It will also discuss the elements of storytelling and how to effectively use storytelling to make a compelling argument at sentencing.

5:45 p.m. Adjourn for the Day

Friday, July 15, 2022

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 10:30 a.m. WORKSHOP SESSION III: Theories and Themes/Storytelling

Attendees will divide into small breakout groups where Group Leaders will facilitate the process of applying theories, themes, and storytelling techniques to the facts of each attendee's own case.

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION III: Theories and Themes/Storytelling (cont.)

12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch - On Your Own

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. PLENARY SESSION: Persuasive Writing

Fredilyn Sison, *Assistant Federal Defender, Training Coordinator & Director, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of North Carolina, Asheville, NC*

This session will provide persuasive writing techniques to advance the sentencing theory using the facts of the mock case.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 – 4:00 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION IV: Persuasive Writing

Attendees will divide into small breakout groups and apply storytelling and persuasive writing techniques to the facts of their own cases. Each attendee will write the first two to three paragraphs of their sentencing memorandum, in a persuasive fact-based manner. Participants will receive feedback on their work and rewrite their memorandum based on feedback received.

4:00 – 4:15 p.m. Break

4:15 – 5:30 p.m. WORKSHOP SESSION IV: Persuasive Writing (cont.)

5:30 p.m. Adjourn for the Day

Saturday, July 16, 2022

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. PLENARY SESSION: Persuasive Sentencing Hearings

Amy H. Rubin, Managing Attorney, Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho, Spokane, WA

This session will discuss how to persuasively tell the client’s story at the sentencing hearing. It will examine factors to consider in making decisions about what to present and how to conduct the hearing.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. Break

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. WORKSHOP SESSION V: Persuasive Sentencing Hearings

Attendees will divide into small breakout groups where they will discuss how each participant anticipates how they will conduct the sentencing hearing in their own case. Emphasis will be placed on the ideas developed in the morning plenary.

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break

**11:00 a.m. – WORKSHOP SESSION V: Persuasive Sentencing Hearings
12:15 p.m. (cont.)**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m. PLENARY SESSION: Using More Than Words to Persuade
Callie Steele, *Senior Litigator, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA*

At sentencing, a picture is worth at least a thousand words, and can bring life and emotion to your client's story. This session will look beyond the written word and examine ways to include powerful and persuasive images into your sentencing presentations.

1:15 p.m. Closing Remarks/Adjournment
Michael Oppenheimer, *Attorney Advisor, Training Division, Defender Services Office, Washington, DC*

CLE Accreditation