

CJA PANEL ATTORNEY TRAINING

Office of the Federal Public Defender

March 18, 2022

Oxford, Mississippi

8:30 – 8:45 ***Welcome: The Honorable Debra M. Brown, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi***

8:45 – 9:00 ***CJA Panel Update: Panel Attorney District Representative Rusty Harlow***

9:00 – 10:15 ***Rene Valladares – Hearsay for the Busy Lawyer***

Hearsay does not have to be a mysterious and threatening topic. This lecture will provide a roadmap for criminal defense lawyers to navigate their way through hearsay problems. We will discuss what constitutes hearsay (FREs 801 and 802), the major hearsay exclusions (FRE 801(d)) and exceptions (FREs 803 and 804), and what constitutes unavailability under FRE 804.

10:15 – 10:30 **Morning Break**

10:30 – 11:30 ***Merrill Nordstrom – Challenging Prior State Drug Convictions***

Sometimes it appears that there are countless ways that prior conviction for narcotics offenses can increase our client's exposure at sentencing. This presentation will explore possible challenges under the Armed Career Criminal Act, and various provisions under the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

11:30 – 12:30 ***Tom Turner – Writing a Persuasive Statement of Facts in Motions and Appeals***

This presentation will cover writing various sections of motions and appellate briefs. Our emphasis will be on writing the "facts" section of briefs, then carrying those facts into the "arguments" section of briefs. We will touch on sources of facts and how to best organize facts before brief writing begins. We will also talk about early determination of what facts are relevant.

Lunch 12:30 – 1:30 **Box Lunches will be provided to participants**

1:30 – 2:45 ***Dr. Julie Teater –How to Recognize Signs of Psychosis and Other Mental Disorders***

Many of our clients who suffer from psychosis learn how to "mask" or hide their symptoms due to the social stigma attached to mental illness. As advocates, we need to recognize when our clients may be experiencing auditory hallucinations, delusions, or other psychotic features. Dr. Julie Teater will provide insight on how to recognize psychosis and methods used to build trust with clients.

2:45 – 4:00 ***Dumaka Shabazz – Navigating the Ethics of Social Media (Presented Virtually)***

Communication has drastically changed over the years. In past decades, the primary modes of communication between attorney, client, and court have centered around in person meetings, phone calls, and letters. While these three areas remain the practical choice, the expansion of social media has transformed the landscape. This expansion is drastically changing the ways in which we communicate and defend our clients. Despite the new technology, our practice is still governed by the same rules of professional responsibility in which we are accustomed. This presentation will provide a basic summary of the ethics regarding Social Media.

4:00 **Closing Remarks**