

**FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
**Southern District of Texas**  
**Criminal Justice Act Panel Training**

United States Federal Courthouse  
Jury Assembly Room  
600 E. Harrison St., Brownsville, TX  
March 8, 2024

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas is presenting a seminar designed to assist Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”) panel attorneys appointed in federal criminal cases. The State Bar of Texas MCLE Department has approved this seminar for 7.50 hours of CLE credit (including 1.0 hour of legal ethics) (**Course No. 174226699**). There is no cost for participants or for those attorneys wishing to apply for the CLE credit.

Registration will be available the morning of the seminar, but preregistration is preferred and is available at <http://fpdsdot.org/en/homepage-2/124-events/928-2023-fall-criminal-justice-act-training-brownsville-tx-march-8-2024.html>

\*Please note that lunch will be provided, thanks to the support of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas through the court’s Attorney Admissions Fund. PLEASE CONTACT MARY BARON TO RSVP FOR LUNCH NO LATER THAN March 4, 2024.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Baron at 956-548-2573 or via email: [Mary\\_Baron@fd.org](mailto:Mary_Baron@fd.org)

**AGENDA**

*(CLE hrs.)*

7:30 - 8:00	<b>Registration</b>	
8:00 - 8:15	<b>Introductory Remarks</b> Marjorie A. Meyers, Federal Public Defender, S.D. TX Sandra Zayas, Branch Chief, Asst. Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX	
8:15 - 9:00	<b>Defending Immigration Cases</b> Arturo Vasquez, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX Chris Gonzalez, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX Roxanna Trevino, Investigator, McAllen, TX	<b>(.75)</b>
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Immigration Law for Criminal Practitioners</b> Jaime Diez, Attorney at Law, Brownsville, TX	<b>(.50)</b>
9:30 - 10:00	<b>Duress Defense</b> Nathan Janis, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX	<b>(.50)</b>
10:00 - 10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 - 11:00	<b>Pretrial Release and Detention</b> Francisco Morales, Senior Litigation Counsel, AFPD, Corpus Christi, TX	<b>(.75)</b>
11:00 - 11:45	<b>Defending Drug Cases</b> Humberto Izaguirre, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX	<b>(.75)</b>
11:45 - 1:00	<b>CJA Representations (and lunch)</b> The Honorable Karen Betancourt, United States Magistrate Judge, Brownsville, TX The Honorable Ignacio Torteya, III, United States Magistrate Judge, Brownsville, TX Gerardo S. Montalvo, CJA Supervisory Attorney, Houston, TX	<b>(.50)</b>

**AGENDA – (Cont'd)**

(CLE hrs.)

1:00 - 1:45	<b>Sentencing Update</b> Marjorie A. Meyers, Federal Public Defender, S.D. TX	(.75)
1:45 - 2:45	<b>Recent Supreme Court and Fifth Circuit Caselaw</b> Philip Gallagher, Supervisory Assistant Federal Public Defender, Houston, TX	(1.0)
2:45 - 3:00	<b>Break</b>	
3:00 - 4:00	<b>Effective Sentencing Advocacy – Panel</b> Angel Olivo-Garcia, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX Judith Pena, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX Edgar Gaucin, Investigator, Brownsville, TX Israel Nogueira, Mitigation Specialist, McAllen, TX	(1.0)
4:00 - 5:00	<b>Ethics Panel</b> Sandra Zayas, Branch Chief, AFPD, Brownsville, TX Hector Garza, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX Michelle Taylor, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX Mauricio Garcia, Attorney at Law, Brownsville, TX	(1.0 Ethics)

Pending approval for 7.50 hours of CLE credit (including 1.0 hrs. of legal ethics) by the State Bar of Texas MCLE Department. **(Course No. 174226699)**

*This seminar is for attorneys eligible or seeking to become eligible to take CJA appointments.*