



Fundamentals of Federal Criminal Defense – Week 8

Successful Storytelling at Sentencing

- a. **Date:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. EDT
- b. **Duration:** 90 minutes
- c. **CLE Category:** General
- d. **Description:**

At sentencing, every client's story matters and how we tell that story can mean the difference between success and failure. Sentencing advocacy is not simply a recitation of the client's background, criminal history, and physical or mental health. Sentencing advocacy is a credible, captivating, convincing story about our clients' lives. This session focuses on effective storytelling techniques and its integration into persuasive sentencing advocacy to unlock compassion, empathy, and mercy.

- e. **Presenter:**

AKIN ADEPOJU has served as an Assistant Federal Defender in both the Trial and Capital Habeas Units for the Federal Defender Offices for the Western District of Pennsylvania and District of Delaware. He has worked on cases from pre-indictment stages to state and federal capital and non-capital trials. Akin has published scholarly articles and lectures nationally in training programs for federal and state defenders on trial and sentencing advocacy, litigating race and trauma issues, legal writing, and ethics. Before joining the Federal Defender family, Akin was an attorney at the Fair Trial Initiative, where he litigated state capital trial cases in North Carolina. Akin is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, earned his J.D. *cum laude* from Rhode Island's Roger Williams University School of Law, where he was a Dean's Scholar and student-attorney in the Criminal Defense Clinic, and earned his LL.M. from Temple University School of Law as a Public Interest Scholar. He is the recipient of the Feinstein Public Interest Award.

Akin serves as Adjunct Professor of Law at Delaware Law School, where he teaches Eighth Amendment Capital Punishment and Advanced Criminal Law courses. Akin was detailed to Defender Services Office in D.C, where he now serves as an Attorney Advisor.

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