

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

United States Federal Courthouse
Jury Assembly Room
1701 W. Business Highway 83
McAllen, Texas
March 27, 2025

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. This seminar is pending approval from the State Bar of Texas MCLE Department for 7.75 hours of CLE credit (including 1.0 hour of legal ethics) (Course No. **174268953**). 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 <https://fpdsdot.org/en/homepage-2/124-events/948-2025-spring-criminal-justice-act-training.html>.

*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 CLAUDIA CRUZ TO RSVP FOR LUNCH NO LATER THAN March 20, 2025.

If you have any questions, contact Claudia Cruz at 956-630-2995 or via email: Claudia_Cruz@fd.org.

AGENDA

(CLE hrs.)

7:30 - 8:00	Registration	
8:00 - 8:15	Welcome Remarks Philip G. Gallagher, Federal Public Defender, S.D. TX Miguel A.A. (“Andy”) Nogueras, Supervisory Asst. Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX	
8:15 - 9:00	Effective Sentencing Investigations and Presentations Judith O. Pena, AFPD Litigation Counsel, McAllen, TX Israel Nogueira, Mitigation Specialist, McAllen, TX	(.75)
9:00 - 9:30	Nuts and Bolts of Getting out on Bond USPO Lorena Garza, United States Probation Officer, McAllen, TX	(.50)
9:30 - 10:00	Breaking Down Guns – USSG § 2K2.1 Basics Philip G. Gallagher, Federal Public Defender, S.D. TX	(.50)
10:00 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 10:45	The Duress Defense: Law & Practice Nathan Janis, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX Roxana Trevino, Investigator, McAllen, TX	(.50)
10:45 - 11:45	404(b) Francisco Morales, Senior Litigation Counsel, Corpus Christi, TX	(1.0)
11:45 - 12:00	CJA Representations Gerardo Montalvo, Criminal Justice Act Supervising Attorney, Houston, TX David Adler, Criminal Justice Act Panel Representative, Houston, TX	(.25)

AGENDA – (Cont’d)

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(CLE hrs.)

12:00 - 1:00	A View From the Bench (and Lunch) The Honorable Juan F. Alanis, United States Magistrate Judge, McAllen, TX The Honorable J. Scott Hacker, United States Magistrate Judge, McAllen, TX The Honorable Nadia S. Medrano, United States Magistrate Judge, McAllen, TX	(.50)
1:00 - 1:45	Federal Sentencing Update Rachel Braver, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Corpus Christi, TX	(.75)
1:45 - 2:15	Defending Drug Cases Juan Jose Becerra, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX	(.50)
2:15 - 3:00	The 4th Amendment at the Border Rikin Shah, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX	(.75)
3:00 - 3:15	Break	
3:15 - 4:00	Defending Immigration Cases Brian Buehler, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX	(.75)
4:00 - 5:00	Ethics Panel Sandra Zamora Zayas, First Assistant Federal Public Defender, Brownsville, TX Yvonne Gomez, Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX Jose Martinez, Jr., Assistant Federal Public Defender, McAllen, TX	(1.0 Ethics)

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by the State Bar of Texas MCLE Department. **(Course No. 174268953)**

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