

Criminal Law and Practice Concepts of Habeas Litigation

Virtual CLE presented for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico

July 11, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (AST)

Presented by

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CLE Overview

This session is the second installment in the Virtual Continuing Legal Education Training Series on Habeas Corpus Litigation. It is geared toward civil practitioners and focuses on core criminal law concepts that are important to habeas practice. The session will cover important aspects of criminal procedure and how those aspects are raised in habeas proceedings. It will also provide an introduction to core criminal law cases that form the basis for common habeas claims. With these tools, participants will be better able to spot potential issues to be raised in a habeas case.

Agenda

- **Welcome and introduction to the CLE**
- **Criminal procedure 101:** What are the main stages in a criminal prosecution? How are these stages related to constitutional guarantees? What aspects of post-conviction criminal procedure are relevant to filing a federal habeas petition?
- **Common habeas claims and relevant legal precedent:** How do habeas practitioners raise challenges to constitutional violations in criminal cases? What are major cases that practitioners need to know? What are the components of common habeas claims and how do you demonstrate that your client has satisfied the requirements for habeas relief?
- **Issue spotting:** What are some red flags to look for when examining pre-trial and trial records? What are issues that can arise from conversations with your client and review of prior counsel's records? How will your investigation inform the issues you raise? How might the issues raised in the federal habeas context differ from those raised in state post-conviction petitions?
- **Q&A**