Introduction to Habeas Practice

Virtual CLE presented for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
June 13, 2025
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (AST)

Presented by

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CLE Overview

This introductory session will give attendees an overview of habeas corpus litigation, exposure to specifics of federal habeas corpus practice in Puerto Rico, and guidance on approaching a federal habeas case. CLE participants will learn about the history of habeas corpus, the requirements of 28 U.S.C § 2254, prerequisites for habeas relief, important cases for Puerto Rico habeas practice, unique aspects of representing habeas petitioners in Puerto Rico, and how to get started with a habeas case. The session will preview topics that will be discussed in-depth in future installments in the Virtual Continuing Legal Education Training Series on Habeas Corpus Litigation.

Agenda

- **Welcome and introduction to the CLE**
- **Defining habeas corpus:** What is the origin of federal habeas corpus? What statutes govern federal habeas corpus relief? What must one prove to be granted relief? What are pre-requisites for a successful habeas petition?
- **Specifics of habeas practice in Puerto Rico:** What are major cases that practitioners need to know? What are unique aspects of habeas practice in Puerto Rico? How do language and state court record issues affect habeas petitions? What are particular rules of habeas practice in the District of Puerto Rico?
- **Getting started with habeas cases:** What are first steps in approaching a new habeas case? What should you discuss with your client? How do you identify potential issues to raise? What records should you collect? What Investigation must you do?
- **Q&A**