

# Investigating and Supporting your Habeas Claim

This session is the fourth installment in the Virtual Continuing Legal Education Training Series on Habeas Corpus Litigation. This session will cover the background work needed to present successful habeas corpus claims. The panelists will discuss records collection and review, client interviewing, and witness interviews. They will also outline the rules applicable to how and whether the federal court will consider supporting evidence.

## Presenters

Ngozi Ndulue

Associate Professor of Law

Director of the Post-Conviction Criminal Defense Clinic

University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

[Ngozi.Ndulue@udc.edu](mailto:Ngozi.Ndulue@udc.edu)

Kristen Samuels

Senior Investigator

Capital Litigation Unit

Southern Center for Human Rights

[Ksamuels@schr.org](mailto:Ksamuels@schr.org)

## Agenda

- **Welcome and introduction to the CLE**
- **Investigation strategy for habeas litigation:** 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? What constraints should you keep in mind as you investigate?
- **Client communication to support your claims:** What are some client interviewing strategies to identify and support claims? How can your client help to move the case along? Why is it important to understand your client's experience with their case? How do you create a strong client relationship at the federal habeas stage?
- **Records collection for habeas litigation:** What are some red flags to look for when examining pre-trial and trial records? What are issues that can arise from review of prior counsel's records? What records should you be looking for to support your claims?
- **Q&A**