Announcing a Free Online Course!

Criminal Appeals in Illinois: An Introduction to Law and Procedure

Meets Every Thursday July 9 – August 6, 2020 from 1:30-2:15

This course will assist attorneys who want to participate in the Illinois Supreme Court’s pro bono program. The course will walk attorneys through a criminal trial in Illinois, discussing various points of Illinois law and procedure, so that attorneys can spot errors to raise on appeal. The course will also familiarize attorneys with relevant Supreme Court and Appellate Court rules, will advise attorneys about client relations, and will teach attorneys how to use OSAD’s vast resources to efficiently research criminal law. Completion of this course will qualify you to participate in the Supreme Court’s pro bono program.

This new and innovative 5-week course combines live teaching with recorded videos and supplemental materials. On Monday of each week, videos and supplemental materials will be released. Attorneys can review this material, which should take approximately 1.5 hours, at their own convenience. Then the class will meet on Thursdays from 1:30-2:15 to review and discuss that week’s materials. See following page for detailed course curriculum.

The Office of the State Appellate Defender anticipates that this course will be approved for 11 hours of MCLE credit, including one hour of Professionalism credit.

Contact Laura Weiler at laura.weiler@osad.state.il.us to register. Registration closes July 2nd.
Detailed Course Curriculum

WEEK ONE:

Section 1:  Introduction and Welcome; Rules for Criminal Appeals

- Supreme Court Rules, 1st District Rules, 2nd District Rules

Section 2:  Navigating OSAD’s Resources


WEEK TWO:

Section 3:  Pretrial Litigation

- Fitness issues, Montgomery and Lynch motions, speedy trial concerns, other crimes evidence, 115-10 motions

Section 4:  Forfeiture and Plain Error

- Identifying forfeited issues, Plain Error: closely-balanced and substantial rights prongs

WEEK THREE:

Section 5:  Other Evidentiary Issues

- Proper foundation for exhibits, prior consistent statements, prior inconsistent statements, scientific and expert evidence, hearsay and Crawford issues

Section 6:  Client Contact

- How to arrange a client call, what to expect/do on a typical client call, how to arrange a client visit, ongoing communication with the client

WEEK FOUR:

Section 7:  Jury Trials

- Jury selection issues, including Zehr Issues, IPIs and non-IPIs, jury deliberation Issues

Section 8:  Other Trial Issues to Consider

- Sufficiency of the evidence, prosecutorial misconduct, ineffective assistance of counsel, judicial error

WEEK FIVE:

Section 9:  Sentencing Issues Part 1

- Sentencing ranges, TASC, Probation and Conditional Discharge, enhanced and extended sentences, double enhancements

Section 10:  Sentencing Issues Part 2

- Consecutive sentences, one act/one crime, excessive sentences, Buffer/Miller issues, fines and fees