



2018 VTLA Criminal Law Seminar
October 8, 2018
Hilton Garden Inn Fairfax and live-streaming
Seminar Chair: Tracey A. Lenox, *Nichols Zauzig Sandler PC*, Woodbridge

Trial Skills in Criminal Law

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

8:50 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

9:00 a.m. **Voir Dire and Jury Selection (CLE = 60 mins)**

Panelists: Amy Ashworth, *Farrell & Croft*, Manassas, and John K. Zwerling, *Zwerling/Citronberg, PLLC*, Alexandria

Moderator: Tracey Lenox

Part of the foundation to our criminal justice system, the trial by a jury, comprised of fair and unbiased citizens, is essential to a proper defense. Winning or losing your case can hinge on this simple fact. Amy and John will argue that this phase of trial is more critical, often more difficult, than any other phase. They will review the fundamental trial skills of effective voir dire and jury selection to leave you better prepared for your next jury trial.

10:00 a.m. **Break**

10:15 a.m. **Strategies for Navigating Criminal and Immigration Issues (CLE = 60 mins)**

Cary J. Citronberg, *Zwerling/Citronberg PLLC*, Alexandria

Immigration is a constant in today's news. You may have more and more cases impacted by this topic. Join Cary as he discusses the considerations that go into crafting a plea deal in Virginia to avoid immigration consequences, using negotiating in drug cases as an instructive exemplar.

11:15 a.m. **Investigation and Cross-Examination of the Confidential Informant (CLE = 60 mins)**

Joni C. Robin, *The Law Office of Joni C. Robin, PLLC*, Alexandria, and Chris Leibig, *Law Office of Christopher Leibig*, Alexandria

Joni and Chris will explore creative and effective strategies to investigate the cooperating witness. They will further examine how to utilize cross-examination techniques to undermine the credibility of the cooperating witness at trial.

12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. **Legislative Update (CLE = 45 minutes)**
The Hon. Jennifer Carroll Foy, Delegate, 2nd District

Being a new member of the General Assembly and an Arlington County public defender, Delegate Carroll Foy will provide perspective on criminal legislation offered in the House of Delegates both last session and in the upcoming session. She will provide an overview of legislative and case law changes for 2018 and will also discuss prospects for discovery reform.

1:45 p.m. **Preserving the Record at Trial for Appeal (CLE = 60 mins)**
The Hon. Rossie D. Alston, Court of Appeals of Virginia

Judge Alston will cover appellate issues, including preserving the record on appeal and will specifically address dealing with suppression motions.

2:45 a.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Mitigation and Sentencing Investigation: Fundamentals, Purpose and Methods (CLE = 60 mins)**
Samuel W. Dworkin, *Dworkin Investigations, LLC*, Arlington

Investigator and Mitigation Specialist Sam Dworkin works on behalf of capital and non-capital clients at the State, Federal, and Military Commissions levels. Sam will focus specifically on the benefits of utilizing and implementing mitigation and sentencing investigations in all phases of trial proceedings and across the various case matter facts (i.e. client relations, litigation, resolution, etc.). You'll leave today knowing how these techniques can be put to best use for your clients.

4:00 p.m. **The Do's and Do Not's of Closing Argument (CLE = 75 mins)**
Beattie I. Butler, Attorney at Law, Charleston, S.C.

Former chief litigator in the Charleston County public defender's office and current faculty member at the National Criminal Defense College, Beattie Butler is a seasoned courtroom veteran who has handled high-profile murder cases and other serious felonies. Beattie will discuss what persuasion is and what it isn't. Exploring the use of rhetorical devices and not simply arguments, with an emphasis on speaking from the heart of the advocate, he will demonstrate how to the win the hearts of jurors.

5:15 p.m. **Adjournment**

CLE Hours = 7.0 hours