

2025 FEDERAL CRIMINAL DEFENSE PRACTICE SPRING SEMINAR
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
McKimmon Center – Raleigh NC

Friday, April 25, 2025

8:00-8:30am **REGISTRATION – Please Check In at the Registration Table with April or Mandy for CLE credit**

8:30am **WELCOME, PANEL UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Alan DuBois, *Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC*

8:30-10:00am **4CCA/SUPREME COURT UPDATES**
Joshua Carpenter, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of North Carolina*
Jackie Tarlton, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina*
The 4th Circuit and Supreme Court update highlights relevant appellate criminal law decisions published between October 2024 and April 2025, with guidance to practitioners as to how these decisions may be used to benefit clients.
(1.5 General Credit Hour)

10:00-10:15am BREAK

10:15-11:15am **UNDERSTANDING AND TROUBLESHOOTING THE FIRST STEP ACT'S EARNED TIME CREDITS**
Laura Wasco, *Research and Writing Attorney, Eastern District of North Carolina*
This discussion will provide an overview of the First Step Act's Earned Time Credits (ETC). We will walk through the First Step Act's basics – who can earn, how you earn, and how credits are used. It will also explore some common issues clients may have with ETC's and how you can help them troubleshoot these issues.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

11:15-12:15pm **SECOND AMENDMENT LITIGATION POST-HUNT**
Cullen Macbeth, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, District of Maryland*
This presentation will describe the state of Second Amendment litigation following *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1 (2022), and *United States v. Rahimi*, 602 U.S. 680 (2024). In particular, it will discuss strategies for bringing challenges to various different statutes in light of *United States v. Hunt*, 123 F.4th 697 (4th Cir. 2024), which held that the federal felon-in-possession statute, 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), is constitutional in virtually all applications. The presentation will also focus on arguments you should be preserving for the day when *Hunt* is abrogated by the Supreme Court.
(1.0 General Credit Hour)

12:15-1:30pm LUNCH BREAK – ON YOUR OWN

- 1:30-3:00pm **BUREAU OF PRISONS: REAL CONSEQUENCES OF SENTENCING DECISIONS-
A DEEP DIVE INTO THE BOP SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM, DESIGNATIONS, PROGRAMS AND THE FIRST STEP ACT.**
Jack Donson, *Executive Director PERA*
Dave Wicclair, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina*
This course will bridge the gap between BOP policy and the reality of implementation. It will provide you with a better understanding of the classification system and correctional treatment programs for more practical judicial recommendations and dispel some of the myths of the First Step Act. A PowerPoint presentation will be followed by a Q & A relative any BOP issue.
(1.5 General Credit Hour)
- 3:00-3:15pm **BREAK**
- 3:15-4:15pm **DATA-DRIVEN DEFENSE**
Snayha Nath, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina*
Robert Parrott, *Assistant Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of North Carolina*
In this presentation, you will learn how to access publicly available sentencing data and tailor it in relation to your case to support your argument regarding unwarranted sentencing disparities pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3553(a)(6).
(1.0 General Credit Hour)
- 4:15pm **PANEL UPDATES AND CLOSURE**
Alan DuBois, *Federal Public Defender, Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC*

6.0 General CLE hours *