

TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective Impeachment

Effective impeachment can be one of the most dramatic moments in a courtroom. Do it wrong, however, and it can look like the lawyer has been beaten at her own game. In this webinar, one will learn the most common methods of impeachment of a witness, as well as the statutory and common law provisions that allow for that impeachment. Impeachment by motive and bias are highlighted in the overview. Learn the mechanics of impeachment by prior inconsistent statement and omission, as well as how to structure your prior inconsistent impeachments so that the jury actually understands and appreciates that you have undermined the witness's credibility.

Objectives

1. Learn what the most common methods of impeachment of a witness are, as well as the statutory and common law provisions that allow for that impeachment. This overview pays particular attention to impeachment by motive and bias.
2. Learn the mechanics of impeachment by prior inconsistent statement and omission.
3. Learn how to structure your prior inconsistent impeachments so that the jury actually understands and appreciates that you have undermined the witness's credibility.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – Presented Via Zoom

12:00Noon – 1:30pm

Speaker: Jennifer Willis

Jennifer Willis has been a public defender for over 20 years. She joined the Federal Defenders of New York, Manhattan office as an Assistant Federal Defender in 2015. Since September 2020, she has served as the Director of Strategic Litigation for the Southern District of New York. Prior to joining that office, Ms. Willis worked for 12 years with the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender, with 11 of those years spent as a senior trial attorney in the Chicago Felony Division. She also previously served for two years as a staff attorney with the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Massachusetts.

Ms. Willis is a frequent speaker and sought-after instructor in trial advocacy and regularly teaches at several national programs including those sponsored by the Defender Services Office Training Division. Ms. Willis received her J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University.

The lunch and learn has been approved for one and one-half (1.5) hours of General CLE credit.

Attendance at this session will count towards the CJA three hour CLE requirement.