

# Special CLE for Capital Defense Counsel

March 22, 2024

Continental Breakfast 8:30AM -9AM

Program 9am – Noon

Lunch Noon -1PM

Program 1PM – 4PM

## Saint Vincent College

Anselm Hall Room 219

“Selecting the Jury in a Capital Case: A Critical Skill”

*Presented by the Suzerain Capital Defense Group*

6 Capital CLE Credits

For Private Counsel: \$240\*

For Public Defenders: \$120\*

*Limited Seating*

*To Register call*

Carol Ross 724-805-2670

*\*Cost is per person and includes breakfast and lunch*





**ANNOUNCING AN IN-DEPTH PRESENTATION ON CAUSE-BASED JURY SELECTION BY SUZERAIN CAPITAL DEFENSE AT SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE IN LATROBE, PA ON MARCH 22, 2024.**

As stated in the American Bar Association's Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases, "Case law stemming from Supreme Court decisions that address capital jury selection procedures has resulted in a highly specialized and technical procedure." The Guidelines further state, "Given the intricacy of the process, counsel should consider obtaining the assistance of an expert jury consultant."

Although having the assistance of an expert jury consultant can be tremendously valuable, the best practice is to **become a voir dire expert yourself**.

Suzerain's team has achieved life sentences in some of the most difficult cases – including the murders of children, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and one of the deadliest school shootings in American history. While there have been numerous factors crucial to these successful outcomes, the cornerstone for them all has been a commitment to excellence in the highly specialized and technical procedure of capital jury selection.

Given that the purpose of jury selection is to elicit, through questioning, grounds for the intelligent exercise of cause and peremptory challenges, Suzerain teaches **cause-based voir dire** techniques rooted in state and federal law that are **necessary to ensure juries are fair and impartial**. Although the March 22nd presentation will focus on jury selection in capital cases, cause-based voir dire is a necessary and invaluable skill in any and all criminal cases.

On March 22, 2024 at Saint Vincent College, you will learn:

- Your obligations in voir dire;
- Your right to voir dire;
- The history and purpose of constitutional, cause-based voir dire;
- Skills for conducting successful, cause-based voir dire;
- Procedures to combat resistance from judges and prosecutors;
- Techniques for substantiating cause challenges;
- Strategies to rehabilitate jurors who are at risk of being improperly excused;
- Methods for addressing issues of race and victim impact testimony; and
- Expertise in ensuring jurors understand their rights and obligations.



**JUSTICE  
WITHOUT  
VIOLENCE**