

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

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NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07101

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WILLIAM T. WALSH
CLERK

REPLY TO: Trenton

March 12, 2007

Dear CJA Panel Member,

The enclosed information is governed by the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), Title 18, U.S.C. 3006A, and should assist you in the completion of your CJA 20 claim for compensation. Should you have additional CJA guideline questions the Defender Services Division in Washington has developed a web site that contains *Volume VII of the Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures*. You may access that web site at www.fd.org, or you may contact the undersigned if you have any additional questions. Also, there is additional information and *forms* on our *website at <http://www.njd.uscourts.gov>*, under the Attorney Services link.

Please be advised that your acceptance of an appointment and representation of a defendant in a case is considered by the Court to be an obligation on your part to represent a defendant at every stage of the proceedings, from initial appearance before the Magistrate or the District Judge through appeal, including appropriate ancillary matters. *It is also your responsibility to comply with applicable procedures and guidelines with respect to the following information, which you should carefully review.*

1. **CJA 20 FORM** - the following information will expedite the processing of your request for payment

The original CJA 20 form that has the Judge's original signature on it should be used when requesting payment. For *interim* billing payments, the original CJA 20 form with the Judge's signature should be submitted with the *final* voucher.

You must bill under the current docket number (if appointed by a Magistrate-Judge, but case proceeds before a District Court Judge, you must bill under the district court docket number).

You must bill in tenths of an hour (e.i. .1, .2, .3, not .15).

2. **LIMITATIONS** : (Attorney Services - CJA Form 20)

A. **Hourly Rates** - Prior to May 1, 2002, the hourly rate for both in and out of court services was \$75.00. May 1, 2002 through December 31, 2005, the hourly rate is \$90.00 for both in and out of court services. Effective January 1, 2006, the hourly rate is \$92.00 for both in and out of court services. Please use the **Split Rate Worksheet** on the courts website, and contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

B. **Maximum Compensation** - Case compensation maximums are established for *non-capital* representations, and apply to attorneys fees only (expenses excluded). Claims for *services of court appointed counsel* in excess of the maximum amounts **must be accompanied by a detailed memorandum**, supporting and justifying that the representation given was in an extended or complex case and that excess payment is warranted to provide fair compensation.

The maximums by category are as follows :

(1) **Felonies:** \$7,000 for trial court level

(2) **Misdemeanors:** \$2,000 trial court level

(3) **Other representations:** (i.e., probation violations, supervised release hearings, parole proceedings, material witness in custody, and grand jury witness):

\$1,500 for trial court level

(4) **Non-capital habeas:** (i.e., 28:2241, 2254, 2255)

\$7,000 for trial court level

REIMBURSABLE OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

A. Travel Expenses -

Travel by privately owned automobiles should be claimed at the mileage rates listed below, plus parking fees, tolls, etc.

Effective Date	Rate
February 1, 2007	\$0.485
January 1, 2006	\$0.445
September 1, 2005	\$0.485
February 4, 2005	\$0.405
January 1, 2004	\$0.375
January 1, 2003	\$0.360

B. Travel outside the District

If travel outside the District is deemed necessary, arrangements can be made and Government rates obtained through Omega World Travel. You must complete and submit a Travel Authorization Form, which you can obtain from our web site, to the CJA Administrator in the vicinage in which you were appointed. You will be notified when travel has been authorized **and may then proceed to make your travel arrangements** by following the instructions in the Travel Authorization Form.

C. Supporting Documentation

All travel expenses and miscellaneous expenses which exceed \$50.00 **must be supported** by documentation (receipts, cancelled checks, etc.).

4. INVESTIGATIVE, EXPERT AND OTHER SERVICES (CJA Form 21) :

- (a) **Excess Compensation**: Prior court approval is required for these services if anticipated to exceed \$500.

As of November 1, 2004, criminal case file documents can now be accessed electronically via the PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) system. Please be aware that it has been determined that public access should not be provided for "**Ex Parte requests for authorization of investigative, expert or other services pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act**". To comply with this limitation to public access, please submit **all requests** for prior authorization (ex parte or otherwise) by utilizing the CJA 21 form, with supporting documentation attached if determined to be necessary. Please do not submit separate requests

without the CJA 21 form. If the requested authorization is approved, the CJA 21 form (with attachments if provided) will be returned to counsel, to be resubmitted to the Court for payment after the services have been fully rendered.

- (b) **Interpreter Services** : Requests for interpreter services should be approved **prior** to contacting and engaging the services of an interpreter. If you need assistance in locating qualified interpreters, contact Sara Garcia-Rangel or Rose Donaghue at (973) 645-4621.

- 5. **SERVICE OF PROCESS** - Witness fees, travel costs, and expenses for service of subpoenas on witnesses, are **not payable** out of the CJA appropriation (see Volume VII of the Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures for Counsel Appointed under the Criminal Justice Act, Section 2.28(E)), but are governed by Rule 17, Fed. R. Crim. P. and 28 U.S.C. §1825.
- 6. **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CJA ATTORNEY PAYMENT INFORMATION**
The Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, was amended in 1998 to require that the amounts paid to court-appointed attorneys be made publicly available upon the court's approval of the payments (see the Notice of Public Disclosure on our website).
- 7. **MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING / EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRONIC PUBLIC ACCESS FEES** - It is **mandatory** that CJA Panel attorneys become registered users of the court's *Electronic Filing* system. Please see our web site under the "**CM/ECF**" link for information and details. Attorneys appointed under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) are exempt from payment of electronic public access (EPA) fees for work that is performed pursuant to such appointment in all federal courts. Please contact the PACER Service Center at (800) 676-6856 to establish your exempt account.
- 8. **FORMS** - You will find the following forms, which you may be required to submit, on the USDC, NJ web site at <http://www.njd.uscourts.gov>, under the Attorney Services link.
 - a) **Panel Attorney Information Sheet** with tax reporting information. If at any time your information changes, please notify your CJA Administrator immediately, by letter, together with an updated Panel Attorney Information Sheet. **For those attorneys affiliated with a firm, if during a representation you change firms, it is imperative that you contact the CJA Administrator in your vicinage immediately for instructions.**
 - b) **Worksheets** for reporting services and allowable expenses to be submitted with the CJA 20 voucher at the conclusion of the case. Counsel may substitute their in-house billing statements for the worksheets. **Totals** from the worksheets should be carried over to the appropriate boxes on the CJA 20 voucher. (Note : Receipts must be provided for all travel expenses and for any other single expense item in excess of \$50.00). The **Split Rate Worksheet** is also available on the website.

- c) **Procedure and Order to obtain Interim Payments** - When it is considered necessary and appropriate in a specific case, the presiding trial judge may arrange for monthly payments to counsel. Once permission of the court has been obtained, counsel should prepare an order outlining payment procedures and specifically addressing payment for actual expenses, travel and compensation. A sample *Order for Interim Payment* is provided on our website.

This order is submitted to the **CJA Administrator** in the vicinage in which you were appointed for submission to the trial judge, who in turn submits it to the chief judge of the circuit or his/her designee for final approval.

- d) **Travel Authorization Form** - (See 3B of this letter).
- e) **Guidelines and Order for obtaining Computer hardware/software** -Pursuant to Volume VII of the Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures, paragraph 3.16, counsel may make an application to the Court, for an Order authorizing the acquisition of computer hardware or software. **PRIOR TO MAKING THAT APPLICATION**, counsel **must** consult with the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (202) 502-3030.
- f) **CJA Form 20** - Appointment of and Authority to Pay Court Appointed Counsel and instructions.
- g) **CJA Form 21** - Authorization and Voucher for Expert and Other Services and instructions.
- h) **CJA Form 30** - Appointment of and Authority to Pay Court Appointed Counsel in Death Penalty proceedings.
- i) **CJA Form 31** - Authorization and Voucher for Expert and Other Services and instructions in Death Penalty proceedings
- j) **CJA Form 24** - Authorization and Voucher for Payment of Transcripts and instructions.

A motion to be relieved as the assigned counsel for a defendant after sentencing by this Court is to be filed with the Clerk of the United States Court of Appeals and the motion will be disposed of by the United States Court of Appeals.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM T. WALSH, CLERK

By: William J. Holland, Jr.
Director of Court Services
(609)989-2328