

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER
OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI AND/OR VICTORIA DIVISION
2024 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PANEL?

Application Deadline: December 15, 2023
Electronic Submission Required

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas has adopted a Criminal Justice Act Plan for the Corpus Christi and Victoria Divisions. Under this Plan, the Court will establish a panel of attorneys who are eligible and willing to be appointed under the Criminal Justice Act to provide representation to defendants who cannot afford counsel.

All attorneys seeking CJA appointments in the Corpus Christi and/or Victoria Divisions must submit an application and be approved for CJA appointments, regardless of previous service. Attorneys who are currently on the CJA training panel must also submit an application for membership on the 2024 panel. While previous membership on the CJA panel may be considered, it is not a guarantee of future membership. To facilitate the transition, however, attorneys currently on the Panel will continue to receive appointments until January 1, 2024, or until the new Panel is appointed. The Panel Selection Committee will meet to consider applications in early January 2024. Please submit your application on or before December 15, 2023, if you wish to receive appointments after January 1, 2024. Applications submitted after December 15th will be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Panel Selection Committee.

Attorneys who serve on the CJA Panel must be members in good standing of the Southern District of Texas, and have demonstrated experience in, and knowledge of federal practice and procedure. We are looking for attorneys with a commitment to representing individuals who are unable to afford adequate representation in the defense of federal criminal cases both at trial and on appeal.

Rates of compensation for panel attorneys in federal criminal cases are currently set at \$164 per hour for non-capital cases, and \$210 per hour for capital cases. All rates are subject to case compensation maximums.

Application for membership **MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**. Hard copies of the application will not be accepted. A link to the application is available on the website for the Southern District of Texas, www.txs.uscourts.gov. If you have difficulty accessing or completing the application, please contact Anna Salazar or Darlene Hansen with the Clerk's Office for the United States District Court, Southern District of Texas, by phone at (361)888-3142, or by e-mail: Darlene.Hansen@txs.uscourts.gov or Ann.Salazar@txs.uscourts.gov. If you have questions about the application or selection process, you may contact any of the following committee members:

1. U.S. Magistrate Judge Jason B. Libby, (361)888-3550;
e-mail: Jason_Libby@txs.uscourts.gov
2. U.S. Magistrate Judge Julie K. Hampton, (361)888-3291;
e-mail: Julie_Hampton@txs.uscourts.gov
3. U.S. Magistrate Judge Mitchel Neurock, (361) 693-6507;
e-mail: Mitchel_Neurock@txs.uscourts.gov
4. Attorney Alfred Montelongo, (361)855-4300;
e-mail: montelongolaw@gmail.com,
5. Assistant Federal Public Defender Lila Garza, (361)888-3532,
e-mail: Lila_Garza@fd.org
6. Attorney Liana E. Gonzales, (361)887-9900,
e-mail: lianalaw@hotmail.com
7. Attorney Joseph Ronald Barroso, (361)994-7200,
e-mail: rbarrosolaw@interconnect.net



Application for membership MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY.
Hard copies of the application will not be accepted.

Email completed applications to:

Ann_Salazar@txs.uscourts.gov

Or

Darlene_Hansen@txs.uscourts.gov.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO
2024 CJA PANEL**

**I. APPLICANT IS APPLYING TO BE ON THE CORPUS CHRISTI PANEL,
VICTORIA PANEL OR BOTH?**

CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

VICTORIA DIVISION

BOTH

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Name: _____

B. Name of Firm, Partnership, or Professional Corporation:

C. Office Street Address:

D. Mailing Address (*if different from above street address*):

E. Office Telephone Number (*include area code*): _____

F. Cellular Number (*include area code*): _____

G. E-Mail Address: _____

H. Date of Birth: _____

I. Professional Organizations, Awards, Honors, etc.:

J. Fluency (office capacity) in the following languages (do you or any member of your office staff speak, read, and write any language other than English?):

III. BAR ADMISSION AND CERTIFICATIONS

A. State Bar Membership Number: _____

B. Date Admitted to State Bar of Texas: _____

C. Date first Admitted to Practice in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas: _____

Membership Number, Southern District of Texas: _____

D. Date first Admitted to Practice in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit: *(if not admitted, please so state)*:

E. Please List All Other Courts in Which You Are Admitted to Practice and Give Dates of Admission and Membership Numbers:

F. Field of Special Interest (appeals, habeas corpus, material witness, trial, felony and capital cases—you may also indicate whether you prefer to handle only one or two types of cases):

G. Date and Field of Certification by Texas Board of Legal Specialization:

IV. TRIAL EXPERIENCE

A. Nature of Legal Experience:

B. Number of Criminal Jury Trials [estimate]:

State _____ Federal _____

C. Number of Criminal Trials to the Court [estimate]:

State _____ Federal _____

D. Number of Hearings or Other Contested Matters [estimate]:

V. APPELLATE EXPERIENCE

Number of Criminal Appeals Handled:

	Briefs Submitted	Oral Arguments
State	_____	_____
Federal	_____	_____

VI. TRAINING PANEL

If you have little or no experience handling federal criminal trials and Sentencing Guidelines issues, are you willing to accept a minimum of two second chair appointments, without compensation, alongside a more experienced Assistant Federal Public Defender or CJA attorney to gain experience prior to being appointed solo for compensation?

Yes No N/A

Note: Serving as a trainee does not necessarily guarantee acceptance as a CJA panel member.

VII. PEER AND COURT REVIEW

A. List the names of two lawyers, not your partners, associates, or relatives, with whom or against whom you have tried a case in the last three years who may be contacted and who can attest to your competence in criminal law:

Name

Firm or Employer

*Number & Street-Room No.
or Bldg. Name-Suite*

City Zip

Office Phone Number (include area code)

Name

Firm or Employer

*Number & Street-Room No.
or Bldg. Name-Suite*

City Zip

Office Phone Number (include area code)

B. List the names of two judges before whom you have appeared in a contested matter in the last three years:

Name of Judge

Name of Court

City County

Court Phone Number (include area code)

Name of Judge

Name of Court

City County

Court Phone Number (include area code)

the 5th Circuit CJA Panel, or any other federal or state panel or list of lawyers who receive appointments to represent persons in legal proceedings. If yes, give full details, including the name of the jurisdiction or court, case number, the date of the removal, the nature of the discipline, the reason the discipline was imposed, and any other information you deem appropriate. This question does not seek information about instances where the Court appointed replacement counsel for reasons unrelated to attorney performance (i.e. difficult client resulting in a deterioration of the attorney-client relationship at no fault of the lawyer).

Yes

No

C. Do you now have any charges pending against you, either in court or grievance committee, that could result in the filing of a malpractice suit, a grievance committee proceeding, or a suit for disciplinary action? If yes, give full details:

Yes

No

D. Have you ever had a judgment rendered against you for legal malpractice? If yes, give full details:

Yes

No

E. Have you ever pleaded guilty to, pleaded nolo contendere to, or been adjudicated guilty of a violation of any law, other than a violation for which the maximum punishment is a fine only? If yes give full details, including the nature of the offense, the name of the court, the disposition (including punishment, if any), the dates on which the charges were brought and adjudicated, and any subsequent history relating to the charges:

Yes

No

F. Have you ever been adjudicated guilty of a serious crime as defined below, whether the adjudication resulted from a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or from a verdict after trial. If yes give full details, including the nature of the offense, the name of the court, the disposition (including punishment, if any), the dates on which the charges were brought and adjudicated, and any subsequent history relating to the charges. You do not need to repeat information provided in Section D above.

For purposes of this application, the term “serious crime” shall include any felony. It shall also include any lesser crime, a necessary element of which, as determined by the statutory or common law definition of such crime, involved improper conduct of an attorney, interference with the administration of justice, false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, willful failure to file income tax returns, deceit, bribery, extortion, misappropriation, theft, illegal drug possession or an attempt or a conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit a serious crime since being admitted to practice law:

Yes

No

X. PETITION AND AUTHORIZATION

I hereby apply to the Panel Selection Committee for admission to the Criminal Justice Act Panel of the Corpus Christi Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas for a term of three years and if selected for the panel, agree to accept appointments under the Criminal Justice Act.

In making and filing this application, I authorize the Panel Selection Committee to make inquiry of lawyers and judges named herein as to my competence in criminal law. I acknowledge that information received by the Panel Selection Committee will be held in confidence and I waive any right to review statements made to that Committee.

I also acknowledge that I have a duty to update and supplement the answers to this application up to and including the time when my application is either accepted or rejected by the Committee. I further acknowledge by my electronic signature and my formal electronic submission of this application to the Committee that I am certifying under penalty of perjury that my answers are true, correct, and complete.

/s/ name of applicant or electronic signature
Typed name of Applicant

Date

Submit Additional/Supplemental Information Here. Include additional pages if necessary.