



Dear CJA Prospective Member:

The time has come for the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel list for the McAllen Division of the Southern District of Texas to be updated. While other divisions in our district have utilized a formalized application process for inclusion on the CJA Panel, the McAllen Division has historically utilized a process which does not require an application. Specifically, attorneys who were licensed in the Southern District of Texas and officed in Hidalgo and/or Starr Counties were generally considered to be on the McAllen Division CJA Panel.

Over the past several years, the McAllen Division, as well as the bar have grown such that we are now in a position to begin a formalized application process for inclusion in the CJA Panel. If selected to be on the CJA Panel, you will be eligible to receive appointments ranging from petty offenses, felony offenses (beginning with the initial appearance through the appellate process), and the representation of material witnesses. The appointment will be made pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act Plan of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

In that regard, an "Application for Admission" to the CJA Panel must be completed and returned to the United States District Clerk's Office, Attention: Velma Barrera, McAllen, Texas on or before May 31, 2019. For some, the application is being sent with this letter but the application is also available on our website at: <https://www.txs.uscourts.gov> found under tabs: Attorneys/CJA Information/Membership Application Links/Application for Admission to McAllen Division. The purpose of the application is to assist the Court in selecting a panel of private counsel available for appointment to represent individuals financially unable to obtain adequate representation in either felony, petty offenses, or material witness cases. Submission of an application does not guarantee placement on the CJA Panel as all panel membership will be determined in accordance with the Criminal Justice Act Plan of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Handwritten signature of Ricardo Hinojosa in blue ink.

Ricardo Hinojosa
United States District Judge

Handwritten signature of Randy Crane in blue ink.

Randy Crane
United States District Judge

Handwritten signature of Micaela Alvarez in blue ink.

Micaela Alvarez
United States District Judge