

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PLAN**

**2011**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PLAN  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PLAN

I. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act of 1964, as amended, (CJA), section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, and the Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act, Volume VII, Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures (CJA Guidelines), the judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, adopt this Plan for furnishing representation in the Brownsville Division of the Southern District of Texas for any person financially unable to obtain adequate representation in accordance with the CJA.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Objectives.

1. The objective of this Plan is to attain the ideal of equality before the law for all persons. Therefore, this Plan shall be administered so that those accused of crime, or otherwise eligible for services pursuant to the CJA, will not be deprived, because they are financially unable to pay for adequate representation, of any element of representation necessary to an adequate defense.
2. The further objective of this Plan is to particularize the requirement of the CJA, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 (codified in part at section 3599 of Title 18, United States Code), and the CJA Guidelines in a way that meets the needs of this district.

B. Compliance.

1. The court, the clerk's office, the Federal Public Defender Organization, and private attorneys appointed under the CJA shall comply with the CJA Guidelines approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States and/or its Committee on Defender Services and with this Plan.
2. Each private attorney shall be provided by the clerk of court with a then-current copy of this Plan upon the attorney's first appointment under the CJA or designation as a member of the Panel of Private Attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA Panel). The clerk shall maintain a current copy of the CJA Guidelines for the use of members of the CJA Panel and shall make known to such attorneys its availability.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. “Representation” includes counsel and investigative, expert, and other services.
- B. “Appointed attorney” includes private attorneys, the federal public defender and staff attorneys of the Federal Public Defender Organization.

IV. PROVISION OF REPRESENTATION

A. Circumstance.

- 1. Mandatory. Representation shall be provided for any financially eligible person who:
  - a. is charged with a felony or an offense for which a sentence to confinement is authorized;
  - b. is a juvenile alleged to have committed an act of juvenile delinquency as defined in section 5031 of Title 18, United States Code;
  - c. is charged with a violation of probation, or faces a change of a term or condition of probation (unless the modification sought is favorable to the probationer and the government has not objected to the proposed change);
  - d. is under arrest, when such representation is required by law;
  - e. is entitled to appointment of counsel in parole proceedings;
  - f. is charged with a violation of supervised release or faces modification, reduction, or enlargement of a condition, or extension or revocation of a term of supervised release;
  - g. is subject to a mental condition hearing under chapter 313 of Title 18, United States Code;
  - h. is in custody as a material witness;
  - i. is seeking to set aside or vacate a death sentence under sections 2254 or 2255 of Title 28, United States Code;
  - j. is entitled to appointment of counsel in verification of consent proceedings pursuant to a transfer of an offender to or from the United States for the execution of a penal sentence under section 4109 of Title 18, United States Code;

- k. is entitled to appointment of counsel under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution; or
  - l. faces loss of liberty in a case and federal law requires the appointment of counsel.
2. Discretionary. Whenever a district judge or magistrate judge determines that the interests of justice so require, representation may be provided for any financially eligible person who:
- a. is charged with a misdemeanor or other infraction for which a sentence of confinement is authorized;
  - b. is seeking relief, other than to set aside or vacate a death sentence under sections 2241, 2254, or 2255 of Title 28, United States Code;
  - c. is charged with civil or criminal contempt who faces loss of liberty;
  - d. has been called as a witness before a grand jury, a court, the Congress, or a federal agency or commission which has the power to compel testimony, and there is reason to believe, either prior to or during testimony, that the witness could be subject to a criminal prosecution, a civil or criminal contempt proceeding, or face loss of liberty;
  - e. is proposed by the United States Attorney for processing under a pretrial diversion program;
  - f. is held for international extradition under chapter 209 of Title 18, United States Code.
  - g. Representation may also be furnished for financially eligible persons in ancillary matters appropriate to the proceedings pursuant to subsection (c) of the CJA.

B. When Counsel Shall be Provided.

Counsel shall be provided to eligible persons as soon as feasible after they are taken into custody, when they appear before a magistrate judge or judge, when they are formally charged or notified of charges if formal charges are sealed, or when a magistrate judge or judge otherwise considers appointment of counsel appropriate under the CJA, whichever occurs earliest.

C. Number and Qualifications of Counsel.

1. Number.

- a. Noncapital Cases. More than one attorney may be appointed in any case determined or expected to be complex, complicated or extended.
- b. Federal Capital Prosecutions. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3005, a person charged with a federal capital offense is entitled to the appointment of two attorneys, at least one of whom shall be learned in the law applicable to capital cases. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599(a)(1), if necessary for adequate representation, more than two attorneys may be appointed to represent a defendant in such a case. The federal public defender should be consulted prior to any appointments.
- c. Capital Habeas Corpus Proceedings. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599(a)(2), a financially eligible person seeking to vacate or set aside a death sentence in proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 or 2255 is entitled to appointment of one or more qualified attorneys. Due to the complex, demanding and protracted nature of death penalty proceedings, consideration should be given to appointing at least two counsel.

2. Qualifications.

- a. Noncapital cases. Qualifications for counsel shall be determined by the CJA Panel consistent with the objective criteria adopted in paragraph VII and Appendices A and C.
- b. Capital cases: Appointment of Counsel Prior to Judgment. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599(b), at least one of the attorneys appointed must have been admitted to practice in the court in which the case will be prosecuted for not less than five years, and must have had not less than three years experience in the actual trial of felony prosecutions in that court. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3005, at least one of the attorneys appointed must be knowledgeable in the law applicable to capital cases.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3005, in appointing counsel in federal capital prosecutions, the court shall consider the recommendation of the federal public defender.

- c. Capital cases: Appointment of Counsel After Judgment. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599(c), at least one of the attorneys appointed must have

been admitted to practice in the court of appeals for not less than five years, and must have had not less than three years experience in the handling of appeals in felony cases in the court.

- d. Attorney Qualification Waiver. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3599(d), the court, for good cause, may appoint an attorney who may not qualify under 18 U.S.C. § 3599(b) or (c), but who has the background, knowledge, and experience necessary to represent the defendant properly in a capital case, giving due consideration to the seriousness of the possible penalty and the unique and complex nature of the litigation.

D. Eligibility for Representation.

1. Factfinding. The determination of eligibility for representation under the CJA is a judicial function to be performed by a judge or magistrate judge after making appropriate inquiries concerning the person's financial condition. Each individual seeking such representation must provide such information either by testimony, sworn statement, affidavit or by any other means subject to the penalties of perjury.
2. Change in Eligibility.
  - a. Subsequent Ability to Pay. If, at any time after appointment, counsel obtains information that a client is financially able to make payment, in whole or in part, for legal or other services in connection with his or her representation, and the source of the attorney's information is not protected as a privileged communication, counsel shall advise the court.
  - b. Subsequent Inability to Pay. If at any stage of the proceedings, including an appeal, the court finds that a person who previously did not have counsel appointed under the Act is financially unable to pay counsel whom he or she had retained, the court may appoint counsel as provided in the Act, including the previously retained counsel, and authorize such payment as therein provided, as the interests of justice may dictate.
3. Partial Eligibility: Partial Payment or Reimbursement. If at the time of appointment or at any time thereafter the court finds that the person is financially able to obtain counsel or to make partial payment for the representation, or that funds are available for payment from or on behalf of a person furnished representation, the court shall take appropriate action, which may include terminating the appointment of counsel, ordering partial



payment by the person furnished representation, or permitting appointed counsel to continue to represent the party with part or all of the cost of representation paid by the person furnished representation.

V. FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER ORGANIZATION

A. Establishment.

1. The Federal Public Defender Organization for the Southern District of Texas, previously established in this district pursuant to the provisions of the CJA, is hereby recognized as the Federal Public Defender Organization for this district.
2. The Federal Public Defender Organization shall be capable of providing legal services throughout the district.

B. Supervision of Defender Organization. The federal public defender shall be responsible for the supervision and management of the Federal Public Defender Organization. Accordingly, the federal public defender shall be appointed in all cases assigned to that organization for subsequent assignment to staff attorneys at the discretion of the federal public defender.

C. Management of CJA Panel. Magistrate judges shall be responsible for the systematic distribution of cases to members of the CJA Panel, subject to the provisions of the Plan for the Composition, Administration, and Management of the Panel of private attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act.

VI. PRIVATE ATTORNEYS

A. Establishment of CJA Panel. The established panel of private attorneys (CJA panel) is hereby recognized.

B. Organization. The Plan for the Composition, Administration, and Management of the Panel of Private Attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act is found at Appendix A of this CJA Plan.

C. Ratio Appointments. Where practical and cost effective, private attorneys from the CJA Panel shall be appointed in a substantial proportion of the cases in which the accused is determined to be financially eligible for representation under the CJA. “Substantial” shall usually be defined as approximately 25% of the appointments.

VII. DUTIES OF APPOINTED COUNSEL

A. Standards. The services to be rendered a person represented by appointed counsel

shall be commensurate with those rendered if counsel were privately employed by the person.

- B. Professional Conduct. Attorneys appointed pursuant to the CJA shall conform to the highest standards of professional conduct, including but not limited to the provisions of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the rules established by this Court.
- C. Compliance with Ethical Rules. Violation of the Rules of Discipline of this Court or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct or of any court of record shall be grounds for disqualification and/or disciplinary action. (The Rules of Discipline, attached to the Local Rules, are incorporated by reference.)
- D. No Receipt of Other Payment. Appointed counsel may not require, request, or accept any payment or promise of payment or any other valuable consideration for representation under the appointment, unless such payment is approved by order of the court such a request shall be grounds for removal from the Panel.
- E. Failure to Comply with Billing Requirements. Persistent failure to comply with the requirements of this Plan or frequent problems with billing, overbilling or other behavior inconsistent with the letter and spirit of this plan shall be grounds for dismissal from the Panel.
- F. Continuing Representation. Once counsel is appointed under the CJA, counsel shall continue the representation until the matter, including appeals or review by certiorari (as governed by the circuit CJA plan provisions concerning representation on appeal), is closed; until substitute counsel has filed a notice of appearance; until an order has been entered allowing or requiring the person represented to proceed pro se; or until the appointment is terminated by court order.
- G. Non-Delegable. The Court appoints all counsel with the expectation that the lawyer appointed will perform all of the necessary tasks that require the participation of a lawyer. No such tasks should be delegated to another person without permission of the Court.

#### VIII. DUTIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

- A. Presentation of Accused for Appointment of Counsel. Federal law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, probation officers, and pretrial services officers in this district, and those acting on their behalf, shall promptly ask any person who is in custody, or who otherwise may be entitled to counsel under the CJA, whether he or she is financially able to secure representation, and shall, in such cases in which the person indicates that he or she is not able, notify the federal public defender who shall discuss with the person the right to representation and right to appointed

counsel, and arrange to have the person promptly presented before a magistrate judge for determination of financial eligibility and appointment of counsel.

- B. Advice to Defendant before Pretrial Services Interview. Before a Pretrial Services Officer interviews a defendant, the Pretrial Services Officer shall notify the defendant that the defendant has the right to speak with a lawyer before answering any questions, and that a lawyer will be appointed to represent him if the defendant cannot afford a lawyer. The notice shall be in writing. If the defendant does not speak the language of the notice, an interpreter shall be provided.
- C. Notice of Indictment or Criminal Information. Upon the return or unsealing of an indictment, the filing of a criminal information, or the filing of a petition to modify or revoke probation, the United States attorney or the probation officer, as appropriate, immediately shall mail or otherwise deliver a copy of the document to appointed counsel, or to the defendant if he is without counsel, at the address shown on defendant's bond papers or to the jail in which the defendant is incarcerated.

#### IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Forms. Standard forms, pertaining to the CJA and approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States or its Committee on Defender Services and prescribed and distributed by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall be used, where applicable, in all proceedings under this Plan.
- B. Claims. Claims for compensation of private attorneys providing representation under the CJA shall be submitted on the appropriate CJA form, to the office of the clerk of the court. That office shall review the claim form for mathematical and technical accuracy and for conformity with the CJA Guidelines, and, if correct, shall forward the claim form for the consideration of the appropriate judge. The court will exert its best effort to avoid delays in reviewing payment vouchers and in submitting them for further processing. In complex or extended cases, interim billing shall be required. (For details, see Appendix B.)
- C. Supersession. This Plan supersedes all prior Criminal Justice Act Plans of this court.
- D. A CJA Panel Attorney may use the Federal Defender Training Group to assist with sentencing guideline questions, as well as general issues facing him/her.

#### X. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This plan shall become effective when approved by the Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit.

APPENDICES:

- A. Plan for the Composition, Administration, and Management of the Panel of Private Attorneys under the Criminal Justice Act
- B. Instructions and Forms for Submitting Pay and Expense Vouchers
- C. Form Application for Admission to CJA Panel Disqualification from CJA Panel
- D. Pretrial Services Officer's Notice to Defendant

# APPENDIX A

## BROWNSVILLE DIVISION PLAN THE COMPOSITION, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PANEL OF PRIVATE ATTORNEYS UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

### I. COMPOSITION OF PANEL OF PRIVATE ATTORNEYS

#### A. CJA PANEL

1. Approval. The Court hereby establishes a panel of private attorneys, the CJA Panel, who are eligible and willing to be appointed to provide representation under the Criminal Justice Act. The Court shall approve attorneys for membership on the panel after receiving recommendations from the Panel Selection Committee, established pursuant to paragraph B of this Plan. Members of the CJA Panel shall serve at the pleasure of the Court.
2. Size. The Panel shall be large enough to provide a sufficient number of experienced attorneys to handle the Criminal Justice Act caseload, yet small enough so that Panel members will have the opportunity to receive an adequate number of appointments to maintain their proficiency in federal criminal defense work, and thereby provide a high quality of representation. In no case shall the number of attorneys exceed sixty (60) unless the caseload demands a revision of this limit. (Panel size modified on December 30, 2016.)
3. Eligibility. Attorneys who serve on the CJA Panel must be members in good standing of the federal bar of this district, licensed and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas and have demonstrated experience in, and knowledge of, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence and the United States Sentencing Guidelines.
4. Terms. Attorneys admitted as members of the Panel shall normally serve for a term of five years. Thereafter, attorneys must resubmit a new application. Members of the CJA Panel shall serve at the pleasure of the Court.
5. Reappointment. A member of the CJA Panel shall be eligible for reappointment to the panel for successive terms following expiration of his or her term, unless otherwise restricted by the Court.
6. Application. Application forms for membership on the CJA Panel shall be made available, upon request, by the Clerk of the Court. Completed applications shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Court who will transmit the applications to the chairperson of the Panel Selection Committee.

B. PANEL SELECTION COMMITTEE

1. Membership A Panel Selection Committee shall consist of the district judges and one or more magistrate judges. The Committee shall select its own chairperson. The Panel need not have regular meetings, but shall convene when necessary to accomplish the purposes desired in this Plan. No formal records need be made at such meeting.

2. Duties.

- a. The Panel Selection Committee shall meet as needed to consider applications for the vacancies created by the terms expiring each year. The Committee shall review the qualifications of applicants and recommend, for approval by the Court, those applicants best qualified to fill the vacancies.

The Committee shall recruit a broad based representative panel of competent attorneys with criminal trial experience. The primary objective of the Committee shall be to recruit the most qualified attorneys, but the Committee shall actively recruit women and minority members and shall provide a substantial number of attorneys fluent in languages other than English. The Committee may but need not classify Panel members according to level of experience and area of expertise.

The Committee shall recommend to the Court any changes deemed necessary or appropriate regarding the appointment process and Panel management.

- b. If, at any time during the course of a year, the number of vacancies due to resignation, removal, or death significantly decreases the size of the Panel, the Committee shall solicit applications for the vacancies, convene a special meeting to review the qualifications of the applicants, and select prospective members for recommendation to the Court for approval. Members approved by the Court to fill mid-term vacancies shall serve until the expiration of the term that was vacated, and shall be immediately eligible for reappointment.
- c. The Panel Selection Committee will meet once a year for consideration of all new applicants for admission and for those CJA panel members whose terms are expiring and who desire reappointment. All applications for appointment or reappointment shall be on file with the Clerk of the Brownsville Division by November 1<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the desired appointment or reappointment to the Panel. The Selection Panel will meet and consider applicants for appointment and reappointment during the month of December and will inform the applicant of the result by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- d. The fact that one has been a member of the Panel does not guarantee

reappointment. Further, the fact that one has been appointed as a member of the CJA Panel does not guarantee that one will be appointed as counsel of record in any pending or future case. Furthermore, failure to comply with either the ethical or competence standards expected by this Court could result in an attorney being dropped from the CJA Panel list. Any decision in this regard is solely up to the Panel Selection Committee.

### C. CJA TRAINING

Panel attorneys shall attend the training program offered by the office of the Public Defenders at least once per year.

## II. THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

### A. MAINTENANCE OF LIST AND DISTRIBUTION OF APPOINTMENTS

The Clerk shall maintain the current CJA Panel list and shall furnish a copy to each judge and the Federal Public Defender upon request. The Clerk shall also maintain a public record of appointments of private counsel, and, when appropriate, statistical data reflecting the proration of appointments between the Federal Public Defender and private attorneys, according to the formula heretofore described.

### B. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

Appointments from the list of private attorneys should be made on an impartial basis, subject to the Court's discretion to consider the nature and complexity of the case, and an attorney's experience. This procedure will assist in producing a balanced distribution of appointments among the members of the CJA Panel and providing quality representation for each CJA defendant.

## III. COMPENSATION - FILING OF VOUCHERS

Claims for compensation should be submitted, through the Court's eVoucher system, to the office of the Clerk of the Court. The Clerk of the Court shall review the claim for conformity with the Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act (volume VII, Guide to Judiciary Policies and Procedures) and, if correct, shall forward the claim form for the consideration and action of the presiding judge or magistrate. (See Appendix B).

## APPENDIX B

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR VOUCHER SUBMISSION

#### A. GENERAL

All vouchers must be submitted through eVoucher. All vouchers must itemize the dates services were rendered, a description of the legal services rendered in representation of the client, and the time expended in rendering the legal services.

Expenses must be itemized and documented.

In an extended or complex case, vouchers must be submitted monthly.

#### B. ALLOWABLE EXPENSES - COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL (CJA 20 or 30)

Out of pocket expenses reasonably incurred may be claimed on the CJA 20 and 30 vouchers, and must be itemized and reasonably documented. Expenses for investigations or other services under subsection (e) of the Act are not out of pocket expenses. Thus, such expenses should not be claimed on the CJA 20 or 30 voucher. A CJA 21 or 31 voucher, Authorization and Voucher for Expert or Other Services, should be filed by the attorney on behalf of the investigator or other expert. Out of pocket expenses may include:

##### 1. Travel Expenses

- (a) Travel by a privately owned automobile should be claimed at the rate prescribed for federal judiciary employees who use a private automobile for conducting official business, plus parking fees, ferry fees, and bridge, road and tunnel tolls. Other means of transportation should be claimed on an actual expense basis. (Local toll fees are not recoverable.
- (b) Costs for traveling from an attorney's office/duty station and the courthouse will not be reimbursed.
- (c) Travel time shall not be charged as an expense except where travel is away from the duty station where the courthouse is located.
- (d) Counsel's expenses for meals and lodgings incurred in the representation of the defendant constitute reimbursable out of pocket expenses.
- (e) In determining whether actual expenses incurred are "reasonable," counsel



should be guided by the prevailing limitations placed upon travel and subsistence expenses of federal judiciary employees in accordance with existing government travel regulations.

2. Hourly Rates for Appointed Trial Attorneys

- (a) The current hourly rate for in Court appearances and out-of-Court labor, as approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States, is published at [www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates](http://www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates). Where the hourly rate changes in the midst of an appointment, appropriate adjustments will be recognized. With the exception of capital cases, case compensation maximums are also established by statute and will be recognized in all cases unless a case becomes extended or complex. Ultimate approval in such cases is made by the Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit or her/his designee.
- (b) All claims for compensation in excess of statutory case limitation requires both, the voucher and a detailed memorandum supporting and justifying counsel's claim. The memorandum should state that representation was provided in a complex or extended case and that the excess payment is necessary to provide fair compensation. Ultimate approval in such cases is made by the Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit or her/his designee.
- (c) Fees and Expenses In Capital Cases. Compensation shall be paid to attorneys appointed under this subsection to exceed the in-court and out-of-court time published rates. Fees and expenses paid for investigative, expert, and other reasonably necessary services that are authorized, in any case, shall not exceed the published rate, unless payment in excess of that limit is certified by the court. Amounts in excess shall first be approved by chief judge of the circuit or circuit designee. The Fifth Circuit's Special Procedures for Reviewing Attorney Compensation Requests in Death Penalty Cases and the limits on fees and expenses are on the court's website.

3. Compensation Limits for Investigative, Expert and "Other" Services (CJA 21 or 31)

- (a) With Prior Authorization [www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates](http://www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates) (per organization or individual, exclusive of reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred, per individual authorization to perform said service.)
- (b) Without Prior Authorization [www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates](http://www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/payment-rates) (Subsection (e)(2)(A) of the Act authorizes the obtaining of investigative, expert and other services without prior authorization but subject to subsequent review, providing the cost of services obtained does not exceed the published rate plus expenses reasonably incurred.

4. Photocopying

Actual costs not to exceed the published rate will be paid if a copy of the bill is submitted. For in-house copying, actual costs not to exceed the published rate will be paid. The costs of other forms reproduction will not be reimbursable.

5. Courier Service and Other Special Arrangements

For delivery of items that could be mailed or e-filed, expenses will be reimbursed only if normal mail service or e-filing is unavailable or inadvisable. In non-emergency cases, routine documents such as briefs and motions should be prepared early enough to permit use of the mail.

6. Law Students

Use of qualified law students to assist assigned counsel in trial preparation and in drafting briefs and arguments on appeal may be appropriate. Payment under the CJA in such instances may be made to assigned counsel only for compensable time spent by counsel plus allowable expenses. Allowable expenses for the attorney may include compensation paid to law students for legal research, but does not include reimbursement for expenses otherwise incurred by a law student. Submit an electronic CJA 21 or CJA 31 and treat as a paralegal expense (see B5 and B8).

7. Legal Research

- (a) Hours claimed for legal research and writing must identify the issue or issues that were the subject matter of the research;
- (b) In extended or complex cases, the hours claimed for legal research and writing must identify the issue or issues that were the subject matter of the research and the docket number of the relevant pleadings; and
- (c) A copy of the bill for the use of equipment for computer assisted legal research must be attached to the compensation voucher.

8. Other Expenses

Other expenses include items such as telephone calls, express delivery, copying (except printing), postage and photographs. “Other” expenses in excess of the published rate must be substantiated by proof of payment, i.e., receipts, canceled checks, and invoices.

Any invoice or bill for an expert or the services of any third party for which a party/attorney seeks reimbursement must be attached to the appropriate electronic CJA 21 or 31. The Court expects any such expense to be approved in advance.

## IN COURT HOURLY INSTRUCTIONS

The “in-court” designation was devised to standardize the itemization and documentation of hourly totals and “in-court” services performed by court appointed counsel in the defense of a client under the Criminal Justice Act. Each submission shall include the following:

- a) the date the service was performed
- b) a brief description of the service performed
- c) the time spent performing the service

The time spent performing the service shall be reported in tenths of hours\*. In addition, the time reported should be entered under the appropriate in-court service category, i.e., arraignment and/or plea, motions and requests, bail hearings, etc.

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*	6 Minutes	=	.1	Hour	36 Minutes	=	.6	Hour
	12 Minutes	=	.2	Hour	42 Minutes	=	.7	Hour
	18 Minutes	=	.3	Hour	48 Minutes	=	.8	Hour
	24 Minutes	=	.4	Hour	54 Minutes	=	.9	Hour
	30 Minutes	=	.5	Hour	60 Minutes	=	1.0	Hour

## OUT-OF-COURT HOURLY INSTRUCTIONS

The “out-of-court” designation was devised to standardize the itemization and documentation of hourly totals and “out-of-court” services performed by court appointed counsel in the defense of a client under the Criminal Justice Act. Each submission shall include the following:

- a) the date the service was performed
- b) a brief description of the service performed; and
- c) the time spent performing the service

The time spent performing the service shall be reported in tenths of hours\*. In addition, the time reported should be entered under the appropriate “out-of-court” service category, i.e., Interviews and conferences, obtaining and review records, legal research and brief writing, etc.

Note: Travel time should not be charged as an expense except where travel is away from the duty station where the courthouse is located.

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*	6 Minutes	=	.1	Hour	36 Minutes	=	.6	Hour
	12 Minutes	=	.2	Hour	42 Minutes	=	.7	Hour
	18 Minutes	=	.3	Hour	48 Minutes	=	.8	Hour
	24 Minutes	=	.4	Hour	54 Minutes	=	.9	Hour
	30 Minutes	=	.5	Hour	60 Minutes	=	1.0	Hour

## **OTHER EXPENSE INSTRUCTIONS**

The “other” expense designation was devised to standardize the itemization and reimbursable expense incurred by court appointed counsel in the defense of a client under the Criminal Justice Act. Each submission shall include the following:

- a) the date incurred,
- b) a brief explanation of the expense; and
- c) the amount of expense incurred.

Expense items such as mileage and copying should reflect the total miles and pages, respectively, multiplied by the applicable rate. The expenses incurred should then be entered under the appropriate “other” expense category, i.e., mileage, parking, meals, etc. Upload all supporting documentation, i.e., receipts, canceled checks and invoices for all expenses in excess of the published rate to the electronic voucher.

**APPENDIX C**

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION  
TO BROWNSVILLE DIVISION CJA PANEL**

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

*Type All Entries*

**I. 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Social Security No: \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

I. Professional Organizations, Awards, Honors, etc.

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J. Fluency (office capacity) in the following languages:

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**II. 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:

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

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

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F. Field of Special Interest (appeals, habeas corpus, trial, felony and capital cases):

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**III. 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]:

\_\_\_\_\_

**IV. APPELLATE EXPERIENCE**

Number of Criminal Appeals Handled:

	<i>Briefs Submitted</i>	<i>Oral Arguments</i>
<i>State</i>	_____	_____
<i>Federal</i>	_____	_____

**V. EDUCATION**

	Degree	Date	Institution	Honors Conferred
College				
Law School				
Other				

**VI. 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:

_____	_____
<i>Name</i>	<i>Firm or Employer</i>
_____	_____
<i>Number &amp; Street-Room No. or Bldg. Name-Suite</i>	<i>City</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Zip</i></span>
_____	_____
	<i>Office Phone Number (include area code)</i>
_____	_____
<i>Name</i>	<i>Firm or Employer</i>
_____	_____
<i>Number &amp; Street-Room No. or Bldg. Name-Suite</i>	<i>City</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Zip</i></span>
_____	_____
	<i>Office Phone Number (include area code)</i>

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

<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Name of Judge</i>		<i>Name of Court</i>
<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Court Telephone Number (include area code)</i>
<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Name of Judge</i>		<i>Name of Court</i>
<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>City</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Court Telephone Number (include area code)</i>

**VII. CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION**

List CLE in which you have participated as: (a) attendee or (b) teacher/lecturer in the last three years. (*Give course title, sponsor, and date.*)

Attendee:

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Teacher/Lecturer:

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**VIII. GRIEVANCE MATTERS:** *(Check Appropriate Response)*

A. State whether you have been disbarred, suspended, reprimanded, or otherwise disciplined by any segment of the bar, including, but not limited to, any local, district or state grievance authority of an organized bar. If yes, give full details by attachment to this application.

Yes  No

B. 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 by attachment to this application.

Yes  No

C. State whether you have been adjudicated guilty of a serious crime as defined below and whether the adjudication resulted from a plea of guilty or nolo contendere or from a verdict after trial. If yes, give full details by attachment to this application.

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, or an attempt or a conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit a serious crime.

Yes  No

**IX. PETITION AND AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby apply to the Panel Selection Committee for admission to the Criminal Justice Act Panel of the Brownsville Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas for a term of five 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed Name of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

**Additional Pages May Be Attached As Needed.**

## APPENDIX D

For Form PS 1, Pretrial Services Notice to Defendant, refer to [www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/cja-information](http://www.txs.uscourts.gov/page/cja-information)

For CJA Form 23, Financial Affidavit refer to

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FormsAndFees/Forms/CourtFormsByCategory.aspx>