

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER
OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI AND/OR VICTORIA DIVISION
2027 CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PANEL?

Application Deadline: December 15, 2026
Electronic Submission Required

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas has adopted a Criminal Justice Act Plan entitled: Corpus Christi/Victoria Division CJA Plan. Under this Plan, the Court will establish a panel in the Corpus Christi/Victoria Divisions of approximately 50 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 Corpus Christi and Victoria 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 2027 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, 2026, or until the new Panel is appointed. The Panel Selection Committee will meet to consider applications in early January 2027. Please submit your application on or before December 15, 2026, if you wish to receive appointments after January 1, 2027. Applications submitted after December 15th may be denied as untimely.

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 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 \$177 per hour for non-capital cases, and \$226 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 Darlene Hansen or Mara Gonzales 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 Mara_Gonzales@txs.uscourts.gov. If you have questions about the application or selection process, you may contact any of the following committee members:

1. Magistrate Judge Jason B. Libby, (361)888-3550;
e-mail: Jason_Libby@txs.uscourts.gov
2. Magistrate Judge Julie K. Hampton, (361)888-3291;
e-mail: Julie_Hampton@txs.uscourts.gov
3. Magistrate Judge Mitchel Neurock, (361) 693-6507;
e-mail: Mitchel_Neurock@txs.uscourts.gov
4. Assistant Federal Public Defender Lila Garza, (361)888-3532;
e-mail: Lila_Garza@fd.org
5. Attorney Robert Guerra, (956)243-2885;
e-mail: rguerra@rguerrallaw.com
6. Attorney Simon Purnell, (361)500-2804,
e-mail: simon@griffinpurnell.com
7. Attorney Gabriel Salais, (361)887-7600,
e-mail: grsvc26@hotmail.com