



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

JAMES C. DUFF
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

March 27, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Judges, United States Courts of Appeals
Judges, United States District Courts
United States Magistrate Judges
Circuit Executives
Federal Public/Community Defenders
District Court Executives
Clerks, United States Courts of Appeals
Clerks, United States District Courts
Senior Staff Attorneys
Circuit CJA Case-Budgeting Attorneys

From:

James C. Duff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Duff".

RE:

IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASES UNDER THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT OF
PANEL ATTORNEY HOURLY RATES AND CASE COMPENSATION MAXIMUMS
(IMPORTANT INFORMATION)

The judiciary's Defender Services account received fiscal year 2018 funding in the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018" to increase the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorney hourly rates from \$132 to \$140 for non-capital work and from \$185 to \$188 for capital work performed on or after March 23, 2018. The non-capital rate increase will result in increases to the panel attorney case compensation maximums in non-capital cases.

CJA Panel Attorney Hourly Rate Increase

The new panel attorney hourly rates of \$140 for non-capital representations and \$188 for capital representations apply to services performed on or after March 23, 2018. Where the appointment of counsel occurred before March 23, 2018, the new hourly compensation rates apply to that portion of services provided on or after the effective date.

CJA Panel Attorney Case Compensation Maximums

The rise in the non-capital hourly rate to \$140 results in increases to the waivable case compensation maximum amounts for non-capital representations of \$10,300, \$7,300, \$2,900, and \$2,200, excluding expenses, to \$10,900, \$7,800, \$3,100, and \$2,300, respectively.¹ The JNet charts, [Hourly Rates for CJA Panel Attorneys](#) and [Waivable Case Compensation Maximums for Non-Capital Cases](#), indicate the new and previous hourly rates and case compensation maximums. The charts in the publicly-accessible Guidelines for Administering the CJA and Related Statutes (CJA Guidelines, Vol. 7A, *Guide to Judiciary Policy*) are in the process of being revised.

The new case compensation maximums apply to a voucher submitted by appointed counsel if that person furnished any CJA-compensable work on or after March 23, 2018. The former case compensation maximums apply to a voucher submitted by appointed counsel if that person’s CJA-compensable work on the representation was completed before March 23, 2018.

CJA eVoucher System Instructions

The new hourly rate and case compensation maximums will be updated in eVoucher and an announcement will be sent to verify the completion of the update. Please call the National Support Desk (NSD) at 210-536-5000, with any eVoucher inquiries. If a court’s CJA Administrator updates the court’s attorney rate or case maximum tables before the national update is completed, there will be no negative impact.

Questions concerning the CJA hourly rates or case compensation maximums may be directed to the Defender Services Office, Legal and Policy Division Duty Attorney, at 202-502-3030, or via email to dso_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov.

cc: CJA Panel Attorney District Representatives

¹ Subparagraph (d)(2) of the CJA, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, amended in October 2008, provides that the panel attorney case compensation maximums for non-capital representations rise “simultaneously” with aggregate percentage increases in the hourly rate rounded to the nearest \$100, since the case maximums were last amended.