



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED STATES COURTS

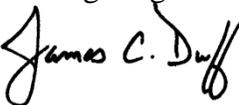
JAMES C. DUFF  
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

May 8, 2017

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 

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 sufficient fiscal year 2017 funding in the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017" to increase the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorney hourly rates from \$129 to \$132 for non-capital work and from \$183 to \$185 for capital work performed on or after May 5, 2017. The non-capital rate increase will result in an increase to three of the panel attorney case compensation maximums in non-capital cases.

CJA Panel Attorney Hourly Rates Increases

**The new panel attorney hourly rates of \$132 for non-capital representations and \$185 for capital representations apply to services performed on or after May 5, 2017.** Where the appointment of counsel occurred before May 5, 2017, 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 \$132 results in increases to the waivable panel attorney case compensation maximum amounts for non-capital representations of \$10,000, \$7,200, and \$2,100, excluding expenses, to \$10,300, \$7,300, and \$2,200, respectively.<sup>1</sup> The panel attorney case compensation maximum amount of \$2,900 remains the same. The JNet charts, [Hourly Rates for CJA Panel Attorneys](#) and [Waivable Case Compensation Maximums for Non-Capital Cases](#), provide 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 May 5, 2017. The former case compensation maximums apply to a voucher submitted by an appointed counsel if that person’s CJA-compensable work on the representation was completed before May 5, 2017.**

CJA eVoucher System Instructions

The new hourly rates 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 210-301-6320 with any eVoucher inquiries.

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 at [dso\\_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:dso_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov).

cc: CJA Panel Attorney District Representatives

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<sup>1</sup> 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.