



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

JAMES C. DUFF
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

December 31, 2019

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)

This memorandum provides information about increases to hourly rates and case compensation maximums under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, as a result of the “Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020,” which provided fiscal year 2020 funding for the Judiciary’s Defender Services account.

CJA Panel Attorney Hourly Rate Increases

The panel attorney hourly rates increase to \$152 (up from \$148) for non-capital work and to \$195 (up from \$190) for capital work. The new rates apply to services performed on or after January 1, 2020. Where appointment of counsel occurred before January 1, 2020, the new hourly compensation rates apply to that portion of services provided on or after the effective date.

CJA Panel Attorney Case Compensation Maximums (in Non-Capital Cases¹)

Because of the increase in the non-capital hourly rate, the waivable case compensation maximum amounts for non-capital representations increase to:²

\$11,800 (previously \$11,500)

\$8,400 (previously \$8,200)

\$3,400 (previously \$3,300)

(The \$2,500 case compensation maximum does not change.)

The new case compensation maximums apply to a voucher submitted by appointed counsel if that person furnished any CJA-compensable work on or after January 1, 2020. 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 January 1, 2020.

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 at (210) 536-5000 with any eVoucher inquiries. If a court's CJA Administrator updates the court's service rates or excess fee limits tables before the national update is completed, there will be no negative impact.

* * *

The JNet charts ([Current CJA Rates and Case Compensation Maximums](#) and [History of CJA Rates](#)) indicate the new and previous hourly rates and case compensation maximums. The charts in the publicly accessible *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, Volume 7A (*CJA Guidelines*) are in the process of being revised.

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 e-mail to dso_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov.

cc: CJA Panel Attorney District Representatives

¹ There are no case compensation maximums for appointed counsel in capital cases. See *Guide to Judiciary Policy*, Vol. 7A, § 630.10.20 and § 635.

² The CJA 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 by Congress. 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(d)(2).