

GENERAL ORDER/  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY  
2025-12

**United States District Court  
For the Southern District of Indiana  
Criminal Justice Act Plan**

I. Authority

Under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) of 1964, as amended, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A, and [\*Guide to Judiciary Policy \(Guide\), Volume 7A\*](#), the judges of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana adopt this Plan, as approved by the circuit, for furnishing representation in federal court for any person financially unable to obtain adequate representation in accordance with the CJA.

II. Statement of Policy

A. Objectives

The objectives of this Plan are:

1. to attain the goal of equal justice under the law for all persons;
2. to provide all eligible persons with timely appointed counsel services that are consistent with the best practices of the legal profession, are cost-effective, and protect the independence of the defense function so that the rights of individual defendants are safeguarded and enforced; and
3. to particularize the requirements of the CJA, the USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (recodified at 18 U.S.C. § 3599), and *Guide*, Vol. 7A, in a way that meets the needs of this district.

This Plan must therefore be administered so that those accused of a crime, or otherwise eligible for services under the CJA, will not be deprived of the right to counsel, or any element of representation necessary to an effective defense, due to lack of financial resources.

B. Compliance

1. The court, its clerk, the federal community defender organization, attorneys provided by a bar association or legal aid agency, and private attorneys appointed under the CJA must comply with the

*Guide*, Vol. 7A, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States or its Committee on Defender Services, and with this Plan.

2. The court will ensure that a current copy of the CJA Plan is made available on the court's website and provided to CJA counsel upon the attorney's designation as a member of the CJA panel of private attorneys (CJA Panel).

### III. Definitions

#### A. Representation

"Representation" includes counsel and investigative, expert, and other services.

#### B. Appointed Attorney

"Appointed attorney" is an attorney designated to represent a financially eligible person under the CJA and this Plan. Such attorneys include private attorneys, the federal community defender and staff attorneys of the federal community defender organization, and attorneys provided by a bar association or legal aid agency.

### IV. Determination of Eligibility for CJA Representation

#### A. Subject Matter Eligibility

##### 1. Mandatory

Representation **must** be provided for any financially eligible person who:

- a. is charged with a felony or with a Class A misdemeanor;
- b. is a juvenile alleged to have committed an act of juvenile delinquency as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 5031;
- 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, or the defendant waives representation in writing);

- 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 extension or revocation of a term of supervised release; or faces modification, reduction, or enlargement of a condition (unless the defendant waives representation in writing);
- g. is subject to a mental condition hearing under 18 U.S.C. chapter 313;
- h. is in custody as a material witness;
- i. is seeking to set aside or vacate a death sentence under 28 U.S.C. §§2254 or 2255;
- j. is entitled to appointment of counsel in verification of consent proceedings in connection with a transfer of an offender to or from the United States for the execution of a penal sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 4109;
- 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 petty offense (Class B or C misdemeanor, or an infraction) for which a sentence to confinement is authorized;
- b. is seeking relief under 28 U.S.C. §2254 or 2255 other than to set aside or vacate a death sentence;
- c. is seeking relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241;

- d. is charged with civil or criminal contempt and faces loss of liberty;
- e. 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;
- f. has been advised by the United States attorney or a law enforcement officer that he or she is the target of a grand jury investigation;
- g. is proposed by the United States attorney for processing under a pretrial diversion program; or
- h. is held for international extradition under 18 U.S.C. chapter 209.

### 3. Ancillary Matters

Representation may also be provided for financially eligible persons in ancillary matters appropriate to the criminal proceedings under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(c). In determining whether representation in an ancillary matter is appropriate to the criminal proceedings, the court should consider whether such representation is reasonably necessary:

- a. to protect a constitutional right;
- b. to contribute in some significant way to the defense of the principal criminal charge;
- c. to aid in preparation for the trial or disposition of the principal criminal charge;
- d. to enforce the terms of a plea agreement in the principal criminal charge;
- e. to preserve the claim of the CJA client to an interest in real or personal property subject to civil forfeiture proceeding

under 18 U.S.C. § 983, 19 U.S.C. § 1602, 21 U.S.C. § 881, or similar statutes, which property, if recovered by the client, may be considered for reimbursement under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(f); or

- f. to effectuate the return of real or personal property belonging to the CJA client, which may be subject to a motion for return of property under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g), which property, if recovered by the client, may be considered for reimbursement under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(f).

## B. Financial Eligibility

### 1. Presentation of Accused for Financial Eligibility Determination

#### a. Duties of Law Enforcement

- (i) Upon arrest, and where the defendant has not retained or waived counsel, federal law enforcement officials must promptly notify, telephonically or electronically, the appropriate court personnel, who in turn will notify the community defender of the arrest of an individual in connection with a federal criminal charge.
- (ii) Employees of law enforcement agencies should not participate in the completion of the financial affidavit or seek to obtain information concerning financial eligibility from a person requesting the appointment of counsel.

#### b. Duties of United States Attorney's Office

- (i) Upon the return or unsealing of an indictment or the filing of a criminal information, and where the defendant has not retained or waived counsel, the United States attorney or their delegate will promptly notify, telephonically or electronically, appropriate court personnel, who in turn will notify the federal community defender.

- (ii) Upon issuance of a target letter, and where the individual has not retained or waived counsel, the United States attorney or their delegate must promptly notify, telephonically or electronically, the appropriate court personnel, who in turn will notify the federal community defender, unless the United States Attorney's Office is aware of an actual or potential conflict with the target and the federal community defender, in which case they must promptly notify the court.
- (iii) Employees of the United States Attorney's Office should not participate in the completion of the financial affidavit or seek to obtain information concerning financial eligibility from a person requesting the appointment of counsel.

c. Duties of Federal Community Defender Office

- (i) In cases in which the federal community defender may be appointed, the office will:
  - immediately investigate and determine whether an actual or potential conflict exists; and
  - in the event of an actual or potential conflict, appoint CJA counsel pursuant to Appointment Procedures as cited in [Section XI.C](#).
- (ii) When practicable, the federal community defender will discuss with the person who indicates that he or she is not financially able to secure representation the right to appointed counsel and, if appointment of counsel seems likely, assist in the completion of a [financial affidavit \(Form CJA 23\)](#) and arrange to have the person promptly presented before a magistrate judge or district judge of this court for determination of financial eligibility and appointment of counsel.

d. Duties of Pretrial Services Office

- (i) When practicable, the pretrial services officer will not conduct the pretrial service interview of a financially eligible defendant until counsel has been appointed, unless the right to counsel is waived or the defendant otherwise consents to a pretrial service interview without counsel.
- (ii) When counsel has been appointed, the pretrial services officer will provide counsel notice and a reasonable opportunity to attend any interview of the defendant by the pretrial services officer prior to the initial pretrial release or detention hearing.

2. Factual Determination of Financial Eligibility

- a. In every case where appointment of counsel is authorized under 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a) and related statutes, the court must advise the person that he or she has a right to be represented by counsel throughout the case and that, if so desired, counsel will be appointed to represent the person if he or she is financially unable to obtain counsel.
- b. The determination of eligibility for representation under the CJA is a judicial function to be performed by the court after making appropriate inquiries concerning the person's financial eligibility. Other employees of the court may be designated to obtain or verify the facts relevant to the financial eligibility determination.
- c. In determining whether a person is "financially unable to obtain counsel," consideration should be given to the cost of providing the person and his or her dependents with the necessities of life, the cost of securing pretrial release, asset encumbrance, and the likely cost of retained counsel.
- d. The initial determination of eligibility must be made without regard to the financial ability of the person's family to retain counsel unless their family indicates willingness and ability to do so promptly.

- e. Any doubts about a person's eligibility should be resolved in the person's favor; erroneous determinations of eligibility may be corrected at a later time.
- f. Relevant information bearing on the person's financial eligibility should be reflected on a [financial eligibility affidavit \(Form CJA 23\)](#).
- g. If at any time after the appointment of counsel a judge finds that a person provided representation is financially able to obtain counsel or make partial payment for the representation, the judge may terminate the appointment of counsel or direct that any funds available to the defendant be paid as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(f).
- h. If at any stage of the proceedings a judge finds that a person is no longer financially able to pay retained counsel, counsel may be appointed in accordance with the general provisions set forth in this Plan.

## V. Timely Appointment of Counsel

### A. Timing of Appointment

Counsel must be provided to eligible persons as soon as feasible in the following circumstances, whichever occurs earliest:

1. after they are taken into custody;
2. when they appear before a magistrate or district court judge;
3. when they are formally charged or notified of charges if formal charges are sealed; or
4. when a magistrate or district court judge otherwise considers appointment of counsel appropriate under the CJA and related statutes.

### B. Court's Responsibility

The court, in cooperation with the federal community defender and the United States attorney, will make such arrangements with federal, state,



and local investigative and police agencies as will ensure timely appointment of counsel.

C. Pretrial Service Interview

When practicable, unless the right to counsel is waived or the defendant otherwise consents to a pretrial service interview without counsel, financially eligible defendants will be provided appointed counsel prior to being interviewed by a pretrial services officer.

D. Retroactive Appointment of Counsel

Appointment of counsel may be made retroactive to include representation provided prior to appointment.

VI. Provision of Representational Services

A. Federal Community Defender and Private Counsel

1. This Plan provides for representational services by the federal community defender organization and for the appointment and compensation of private counsel from a CJA Panel list maintained by the federal community defender in cases authorized under the CJA and related statutes for the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany divisions.
2. This Plan provides for representational services by appointment and compensation of private counsel from a CJA Panel list maintained by the court in cases authorized under the CJA and related statutes for the Evansville division.

B. Administration

1. Administration of the CJA Panel, as set forth in this Plan, is hereby delegated and assigned to the federal community defender for the Indianapolis, Terre Haute and New Albany divisions.
2. Administration of the CJA Panel, as set forth in this Plan, remains with the court for the Evansville division.

C. Apportionment of Cases in Indianapolis and Terre Haute Divisions

Where practical and cost effective, private attorneys from the CJA Panel will 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” will usually be defined as a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the annual CJA appointments.

D. Number of Counsel

More than one attorney may be appointed in any case determined by the court to be extremely difficult.

E. Capital Cases

Procedures for appointment of counsel in cases where the defendant is charged with a crime that may be punishable by death, is seeking to vacate or set aside a death sentence in proceedings under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 or 2255, or is pursuing other post-conviction processes as set forth in [Section XV of this Plan](#).

VII. Federal Community Defender Organization

A. Establishment

The federal community defender organization, Indiana Federal Community Defenders, LLC, is established in this district under the CJA and is responsible for rendering defense services on appointment for the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany divisions.

B. Standards

The federal community defender organization must provide high quality representation consistent with the best practices of the legal profession and commensurate with those services rendered when counsel is privately retained. See *Polk County v. Dodson*, 454 U.S. 312, 318 (1981) (“Once a lawyer has undertaken the representation of an accused, the duties and obligations are the same whether the lawyer is privately retained, appointed, or serving in a legal aid or defender program.” (quoting ABA Standards for Criminal Justice section 4-3.9 (2d ed. 1980))).

C. Workload

The federal community defender organization will continually monitor the workloads of its staff to ensure high quality representation for all clients.

D. Professional Conduct

The federal community defender organization must conform to the highest standards of professional conduct, including but not limited to the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct, the Seventh Circuit Standards of Professional Conduct, the Indiana Federal Community Defender Model Code of Conduct for Employees, the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the American Bar Association's Model Code of Professional Conduct, and any other professional rules that govern conduct in any jurisdiction where the attorney is admitted to practice.

E. Private Practice of Law

Neither the federal community defender nor any defender employee may engage in the private practice of law except as authorized by the community defender Code of Conduct.

F. Supervision of Defender Organization

The federal community defender will be responsible for the supervision and management of the federal community defender organization. Accordingly, the federal community defender will be appointed in all cases assigned to that organization for subsequent assignment to staff attorneys at the discretion of the federal community defender.

G. Training

The federal community defender will assess the training needs of federal community defender staff and, in coordination with the CJA Panel Attorney District Representative, the training needs of the local panel attorneys, and provide training opportunities and other educational resources.

## VIII. CJA Panel of Private Attorneys

### A. Establishment of the CJA Panel Committee

1. A CJA Panel Committee (CJA Committee, formerly known as the Panel Selection Committee), charged with facilitating management of the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany CJA Panels, will be established by the court in consultation with the federal community defender. The CJA Committee will consist of one district court judge, one magistrate judge, the federal community defender, the CJA Panel Attorney District Representative (PADR), a criminal defense attorney who practices regularly in the district who may be a CJA panel member, the clerk of court, and an ex officio staff member employed by the federal community defender who will act as administrative coordinator.
2. The federal community defender, or his/her representative, and the district's PADR are permanent members of the CJA Committee.

Membership on the CJA Committee will otherwise be for a term of three years and may be extended for an additional three years. Members' terms will be staggered to ensure continuity on the CJA Committee.

3. The CJA Committee will meet at least twice a year and at any time the court asks the Committee to consider an issue.

### B. Duties of the CJA Committee

#### 1. Membership

Examine the qualifications of applicants for membership on the CJA Panels for Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany, and recommend to the court panel membership to those attorneys who are deemed qualified and rejection of the applications of those attorneys deemed unqualified.

#### 2. Recruitment

Engage in recruitment efforts to establish a diverse panel and ensure that all qualified attorneys are encouraged to participate in the furnishing of representation in CJA cases.

3. Annual Report

Review the operation and administration of the CJA Panel over the preceding year, and recommend any necessary or appropriate changes to the chief judge concerning:

- a. the size of the CJA Panel;
- b. the recruitment of qualified and diverse attorneys as required and set forth in this Plan; and
- c. recurring issues or difficulties encountered by panel members or their CJA clients.

4. Removal

Recommend to the court the removal of any CJA panel member who:

- a. fails to satisfactorily fulfill the requirements of CJA panel membership during his or her term of service, including the failure to provide high quality representation to CJA clients, or
- b. has engaged in other conduct such that his or her continued service on the CJA Panel is inappropriate.

See also [Section IX.C.8 of this Plan](#).

5. Training

Assist the federal community defender office in providing training for the CJA Panel on substantive and procedural legal matters affecting representation of CJA clients.

IX. Establishment of CJA Panels

A. Approval of CJA Panels

- 1. The existing, previously established panels of attorneys who are eligible and willing to be appointed to provide representation under the CJA are hereby recognized.

2. The chair of the CJA Committee will recommend attorneys for membership on the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany CJA Panels after receiving recommendations from the CJA Committee.

B. Size of CJA Panels

1. The size of the CJA Panels for Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany will be determined by the CJA Committee based on the caseload and activity of the panel members, subject to approval by the court.
  - a. In September of each year, the federal community defender shall make an internal assessment and provide a report to the CJA Committee providing data for the preceding year, which shall include:
    - i. the number of cases assigned to each division and individual panel member, and the average number of cases panel members received in each division;
    - ii. any panel attrition and any anticipated attrition for the coming year;
    - iii. recommendations regarding reappointment for panel members with expiring terms; and
    - iv. a recommendation to the Committee regarding whether the size of the panel or developmental panel should be increased for the coming year.
  - b. Should the federal community defender conclude that a need exists for the panel size to be addressed outside of the September reporting cycle, notification and recommendations may be made to the court through the district court judge on the CJA Committee. The district court judge will then assist in determining further off cycle action.
2. The size of the CJA Panel for Evansville will be determined by the court based on the caseload and activity of the panel members.

3. The CJA Panels must be large enough to provide a sufficient number of experienced attorneys to handle the CJA caseload, yet small enough so that CJA panel members will receive an adequate number of appointments to maintain their proficiency in federal criminal defense work enabling them to provide high quality representation consistent with the best practices of the legal profession and commensurate with those services rendered when counsel is privately retained.

C. Qualifications and Membership on the CJA Panels

1. Application

Application forms for membership on the Indianapolis, Terre Haute and New Albany CJA Panels are available on the website of the federal community defender ([www.indianafederaldefender.org](http://www.indianafederaldefender.org)). Applications for membership on the Evansville CJA Panel are available on the court's website ([www.insd.uscourts.gov](http://www.insd.uscourts.gov)).

2. Equal Opportunity

All qualified attorneys are encouraged to participate in the furnishing of representation in CJA cases.

3. Eligibility

- a. Applicants for the CJA Panel must be members in good standing of the federal bar of this district and the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.
- b. Applicants must possess strong litigation skills and demonstrate proficiency with the federal sentencing guidelines, federal sentencing procedures, the Bail Reform Act, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Federal Rules of Evidence.
- c. Applicants must have significant experience representing persons charged with serious criminal offenses and demonstrate a commitment to the defense of people who lack the financial means to hire an attorney.

- d. Attorneys who do not possess the experience set forth above but believe they have equivalent other experience are encouraged to apply and set forth in writing the details of that experience for the CJA Committee and court's consideration.

4. Appointment to CJA Panel

After considering the recommendations of the CJA Committee (Indianapolis, Terre Haute and New Albany); and the district and magistrate judges (Evansville), the court will appoint or reappoint attorneys to the divisional CJA Panels. Due to the highly complex and demanding nature of capital and habeas corpus cases, special procedures will be followed for the eligibility and appointment of counsel in such cases. See [Section XV of this Plan](#).

5. Terms of CJA Panel Members

To establish staggered CJA membership terms, the staggered terms of the current CJA Panel will be maintained. Thereafter, attorneys admitted to membership on the CJA Panel will each serve for a term of three years, subject to the reappointment procedures set forth in this Plan. Terms for new and reappointed panel members begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year.

6. Reappointment of CJA Panel Members - Indianapolis, Terre Haute and New Albany

- a. The federal community defender will notify CJA panel members, prior to the expiration of their current terms, of the need to apply for reappointment to the CJA Panel.
- b. A member of the CJA Panel who wishes to be considered for reappointment must apply for appointment to an additional term at least three months prior to the expiration of his or her current term.
- c. The CJA Committee will solicit input concerning the quality of representation provided by lawyers seeking reappointment.



- d. The CJA Committee also will consider how many cases the CJA panel member has accepted and declined during the review period, whether the member has participated in training opportunities, whether the member has been the subject of any complaints, and whether the member continues to meet the prerequisites and obligations of CJA panel members as set forth in this Plan.
- 7. Reappointment of CJA Panel Members - Evansville
  - a. The clerk of court will notify Evansville CJA panel members, prior to the expiration of their current terms, of the need to apply for reappointment to the CJA Panel.
  - b. The clerk of court will solicit input concerning the quality of representation provided by lawyers seeking reappointment.
  - c. The court also will consider how many cases the CJA panel member has accepted and declined during the review period, whether the member has participated in training opportunities, whether the member has been the subject of any complaints, and whether the member continues to meet the prerequisites and obligations of CJA panel members as set forth in this Plan.
- 8. Removal from the CJA Panel
  - a. Mandatory removal

Any member of the CJA Panel who is suspended or disbarred from the practice of law by any state court before whom such member is admitted, or who is suspended or disbarred from this court or any federal court, will be removed from the CJA Panel immediately.
  - b. Automatic disciplinary review

The CJA Committee (Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and Evansville CJA Panels) or the clerk of court (Evansville CJA Panel), as applicable, will conduct an automatic disciplinary review of any CJA panel member against whom any licensing authority, grievance committee, or administrative

body has taken action, or when a finding of probable cause, contempt, sanction, or reprimand has been issued against the panel member by any state or federal court.

c. Complaints

(i) Initiation

A complaint against a panel member may be initiated by the CJA Committee, a judge, another panel member, a defendant, or a member of the federal community defender office. A complaint need not follow any particular form, but it must be in writing and state the alleged deficiency with specificity. Any complaint should be directed to the federal community defender (Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany CJA Panels) or the clerk of court (Evansville CJA Panel). The complaint will be forwarded for review by the CJA Committee. The CJA Committee will determine whether further investigation is necessary. Such further investigation may be made by the CJA Committee (Indianapolis, Terre Haute, New Albany) or referred to the clerk of court (Evansville).

(ii) Notice

When conducting an investigation, the CJA Committee will notify the panel member of the specific allegations.

(iii) Response

A panel member subject to investigation may respond in writing.

(iv) Protective action

Prior to disposition of any complaint as to a member of the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, or New Albany CJA Panels, the CJA Committee may recommend

temporary suspension or removal of the panel member from any pending case, or from the panel, and may take any other protective action that is in the best interest of the client or the administration of this Plan. Prior to disposition of any complaint as to a member of the Evansville CJA Panel, the clerk of court may recommend temporary suspension or removal of the panel member from any pending case, or from the panel, and may recommend to the court any other protective action that is in the best interest of the client or the administration of this Plan.

(v) Review and recommendation

After investigation, the CJA Committee (as to a member of the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, or New Albany CJA Panels) or clerk of court (as to the Evansville CJA Panel) may recommend dismissing the complaint, or recommend appropriate remedial action, including removing the attorney from the panel, limiting the attorney's participation to particular types or categories of cases, directing the attorney to complete specific CLE requirements before receiving further panel appointments, limiting the attorney's participation to handling cases that are directly supervised or overseen by another panel member or other experienced practitioner, or any other appropriate remedial action.

(vi) Final disposition by the court

The CJA Committee or clerk of court, as appropriate, will forward its recommendation to the court for consideration and final disposition.

(vii) Confidentiality

Unless otherwise directed by the court, any information acquired concerning any possible disciplinary action, including any complaint and any related proceeding, will be confidential.

(viii) None of these procedures create a property interest in being on or remaining on the CJA Panel.

d. Notification

The federal community defender will be immediately notified when any member of the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, or New Albany CJA Panel is removed or suspended.

9. Mentoring

The District Court Judges, in conjunction with the Magistrate Judges, and the Indiana Federal Community Defender, will oversee a CJA Developmental Panel program wherein attorneys who do not have the requisite experience for membership on a CJA Panel are eligible to assist or be mentored by the Federal Community Defender, an Assistant Federal Defender, or a member of the CJA Panel.

X. The CJA Panel Attorney District Representative

A. The CJA Panel Attorney District Representative (PADR) is a member of the district's CJA Panel who is selected by the local federal community defender, with acquiescence from the chief judge, to serve as the representative of the district's CJA panel for the national Defender Services CJA PADR program and local CJA committees. In selection of the Representative, the Community Defender will value the selection of diverse candidates.

B. Term of PADR

1. The PADR shall serve for a term of three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.
2. No later than the expiration of two terms, the federal community defender will select a replacement and provide that information for consideration by the CJA Panel Committee and approval by the Chief Judge as a part of the same yearly submission recommending panel additions or reappointments to the CJA panel as referenced in [Section VIII of this Plan](#).

## XI. CJA Panel Attorney Appointment in Non-Capital Cases

### A. Appointment List

The federal community defender will maintain a current list of all attorneys included on the CJA Panels of Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany. The clerk of court will maintain a list of all attorneys included on the CJA Panel of Evansville. These lists will include current office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers, as well as a statement of qualifications and experience.

### B. Interdivisional Appointments

Attorneys appointed to any divisional CJA Panel are eligible for appointment as counsel in cases in any division of the court.

### C. Appointment Procedures (Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany Divisions)

1. The federal community defender is responsible for overseeing the appointment of a member of the CJA Panel in any division to cases in the Indianapolis, Terre Haute, and New Albany divisions. The federal community defender will maintain a record of panel attorney appointments and, when appropriate, data reflecting the apportionment of appointments between attorneys from the federal community defender office and panel attorneys.
2. Appointment of cases to CJA panel members will ordinarily be made on a rotational basis with the goal of a balanced distribution of appointments and compensation among members of the CJA panel and quality representation for each CJA defendant. The federal community defender may make exceptions to rotational appointments due to the nature and complexity of the case, an attorney's experience or qualifications, and geographical considerations.
3. Under special circumstances the court may appoint a member of the bar of the court who is not a member of the CJA Panel. Such special circumstances may include cases in which the court determines that the appointment of a particular attorney is in the interests of justice, judicial economy, or continuity of representation, or for any other compelling reason. It is not

anticipated that special circumstances will arise often, and the procedures set forth in the Plan are presumed to be sufficient in the vast majority of cases in which counsel are to be appointed. In an effort to ensure the integrity of the panel selection process, the appointment of an attorney who is not a member of the CJA Panel should occur only in exceptional circumstances. Appointments made under this section will be reported to the CJA Committee.

4. Unless otherwise impracticable, CJA panel attorney(s) must be available to represent defendant(s) at the same stage of the proceedings as is the federal community defender.

D. Appointment Procedures (Evansville Division)

Upon the determination of the need for the appointment of counsel, any district judge or magistrate judge assigned to or handling a case filed or pending in the Evansville Division, shall appoint an available member of any divisional CJA Panel who has handled, or assisted in, an action of equal or greater complexity than the action for which appointment of counsel is required. When necessary, the court may appoint a qualified defense lawyer who is not a member of the Evansville CJA Panel. In an effort to ensure the integrity of the panel selection process, the appointment of an attorney who is not a member of the CJA Panel should occur only in exceptional circumstances.

XII. Duties of CJA Panel Members

A. Standards and Professional Conduct

1. CJA panel members must provide high quality representation consistent with the best practices of the legal profession and commensurate with those services rendered when counsel is privately retained. See *Polk County v. Dodson*, 454 U.S. 312, 318 (1981) (“Once a lawyer has undertaken the representation of an accused, the duties and obligations are the same whether the lawyer is privately retained, appointed, or serving in a legal aid or defender program.” (quoting ABA Standards for Criminal Justice section 4-3.9 (2d ed. 1980))).
2. Attorneys appointed under the CJA must conform to the highest standards of professional conduct, including but not limited to the

Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct, The Seventh Circuit Standards of Professional Conduct, the Indiana Federal Community Defender Model Code of Conduct for Employees, the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the American Bar Association's Model Code of Professional Conduct, and any other professional rules that govern conduct in any jurisdiction where the attorney is admitted to practice

3. CJA panel members must notify within 30 days the chair of the CJA Committee when any licensing authority, grievance committee, or administrative body has taken action against them, or when a finding of contempt, sanction, or reprimand has been issued against the panel member by any state or federal court.

B. Training and Continuing Legal Education

1. Attorneys on the CJA Panel are expected to remain current with developments in federal criminal defense law, practice, and procedure, including the Recommendations for [Electronically Stored Information \(ESI\) Discovery Production in Federal Criminal Cases](#).
2. Attorneys on the CJA Panel are expected to attend trainings sponsored by the federal community defender.
3. Attorneys on the CJA Panel will be guided in their practice by the [Federal Adaptation of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association Performance Guidelines for Criminal Defense Representations](#).
4. CJA panel members must attend 6 continuing legal education hours relevant to federal criminal practice annually.
5. Failure to comply with these training and legal education requirements may be grounds for removal from the CJA Panel.

C. Facilities and Technology Requirements

1. CJA panel attorneys must have facilities, resources, and technological capability to effectively and efficiently manage assigned cases.

2. CJA panel attorneys must comply with the requirements of electronic filing and eVoucher.
3. CJA panel attorneys must know and abide by procedures related to requests for investigative, expert, and other services.

D. Continuing Representation

Once counsel is appointed under the CJA, counsel will continue the representation until substitute counsel has filed a notice of appearance; or until an order is entered allowing or requiring the person represented to proceed pro se; or until the appointment is terminated by court order.

Upon a defendant's request to appeal, counsel appointed under the CJA shall continue representation in the matter under the terms of this Plan and the Seventh Circuit's CJA Plan. At a minimum, counsel shall (1) file the notice of appeal; (2) order the necessary transcripts; and (3) file the docketing statement in the court of appeals. Trial counsel must file a motion to withdraw or for appointment within 14 days of filing the notice of appeal. If counsel is unable or does not wish to continue representing the defendant for the duration of the appeal, counsel shall file a motion to withdraw with the court of appeals pursuant to Circuit Rule 46.1. Relief from continuing appellate duties under Rule 46.1 "will be freely granted" by the court of appeals and a reason for withdrawal need not be provided under Rule 46.1(c).

E. Miscellaneous

1. Case budgeting

In non-capital representations of unusual complexity that are likely to become extraordinary in terms of cost, the court may require development of a case budget consistent with the [Guide, Vol. 7A, Ch. 2, §§ 230.26.10–20](#). Courts and appointed counsel are encouraged to consult with the Circuit CJA Case Budgeting Attorney.

2. 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 CJA, unless such payment is approved by order of the court.

3. Redetermination of need

If at any time after appointment, counsel has reason to believe that a party is financially able to obtain counsel, or make partial payment for counsel, and the source of counsel's information is not protected as a privileged communication, counsel will advise the court.

XIII. Compensation of CJA Panel Attorneys

A. Policy of the Court Regarding Compensation

1. Providing fair compensation to appointed counsel is a critical component of the administration of justice. CJA panel attorneys must be compensated for time expended in court and time reasonably expended out of court and reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred.
2. Voucher reductions should be limited to:
  - a. Mathematical errors;
  - b. Instances in which work billed was not compensable;
  - c. Instances in which work was not undertaken or completed; and
  - d. Instances in which the hours billed are clearly in excess of what was reasonably required to complete the task.
3. A panel attorney may challenge a voucher reduction. A challenge need not follow any particular form, but it must be in writing and state the basis for the challenge with specificity. Any challenge should be directed to the clerk of court. The clerk will forward the challenge to a district judge other than the district judge who presided over the underlying case for review. The reviewing judge may request an opinion from the federal community defender or may take any other action necessary to resolve the challenge, including but not limited to seeking additional input from the

presiding judge, the panel attorney, and the Circuit CJA case budgeting attorney. The reviewing judge should issue a written decision to the clerk no later than 30 days after receipt of the challenge.

B. Payment Procedures

1. Claims for compensation must be submitted on the appropriate CJA form through the court's eVoucher system.
2. At the latest, claims for compensation should be submitted no later than 45 days after final disposition of the case, unless good cause is shown. However, interim payments of compensation and expenses are allowed at regular intervals in representations exceeding 90 days in duration or \$4,000 in accrued compensation and expense claims. [Guide, Vol. 7A, Ch. 2, § 230.73.10.](#)
3. The court or its designee will review the claim for mathematical and technical accuracy and for conformity with the Guide, Vol. 7A and, if correct, will forward the claim for consideration and action by the presiding judge.
4. For Indianapolis, Terre Haute and New Albany cases, when a claim for compensation exceeds the statutory maximum, the claim for compensation will first be submitted to the federal community defender for review and preparation of a memo to the court recommending payment in full, payment in part, or disallowance of the voucher. Appointed counsel shall include a memo explaining why the claim for compensation exceeds the statutory maximum when the voucher is submitted. For Evansville cases, when a claim for compensation exceeds the statutory maximum, appointed counsel shall submit a memo to the court explaining why the claim for compensation exceeds the statutory maximum when the voucher is submitted.
5. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the court should act on CJA compensation claims within 30 days of submission, and vouchers should not be delayed or reduced for the purpose of diminishing defender services program costs in response to adverse financial circumstances.

6. Except in cases involving mathematical corrections, no claim for compensation submitted for services provided under the CJA will be reduced without affording counsel notice and the opportunity to be heard.
7. The court, when contemplating reduction of a CJA voucher for other than mathematical reasons, may refer the voucher to the federal community defender for review and recommendation before final action on the claim is taken. See Section VIII of this Plan.
8. Notwithstanding the procedure described above, the court may, in the first instance, contact appointed counsel to inquire regarding questions or concerns with a claim for compensation. In the event that the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the court and CJA panel member, the claim for compensation need not be referred to the federal community defender for review and recommendation.

#### XIV. Investigative, Expert, and Other Services

##### A. Financial Eligibility

Counsel for a person who is financially unable to obtain investigative, expert, or other services necessary for an adequate defense may request such services in an *ex parte* application to the court as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(e)(1), regardless of whether counsel is appointed under the CJA. Upon finding that the services are necessary, and that the person is financially unable to obtain them, the court must authorize counsel to obtain the services.

##### B. Applications

Requests for authorization of funds for investigative, expert, and other services must be submitted in an *ex parte* application to the court (using the court's CM/ECFsystem) and must not be disclosed except with the consent of the person represented or as required by law or Judicial Conference policy.

C. Compliance

Counsel must comply with Judicial Conference policies set forth in the [Guide, Vol. 7A, Ch. 3](#).

XV. Appointment of Counsel and Case Management in CJA Capital Cases

A. Applicable Legal Authority

The appointment and compensation of counsel in capital cases and the authorization and payment of persons providing investigative, expert, and other services are governed by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3005, 3006A, and 3599, and the [Guide, Vol. 7A, Ch. 6](#).

B. General Applicability and Appointment of Counsel Requirements

1. Unless otherwise specified, the provisions set forth in this section apply to all capital proceedings in the federal courts, whether those matters originated in a district court (federal capital trials) or in a state court (habeas proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2254). Such matters include those in which the death penalty may be or is being sought by the prosecution, motions for a new trial, direct appeal, applications for a writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States, all post-conviction proceedings under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2254 or 2255 seeking to vacate or set aside a death sentence, applications for stays of execution, competency proceedings, proceedings for executive or other clemency, and other appropriate motions and proceedings.
2. Any person charged with a crime that may be punishable by death who is or becomes financially unable to obtain representation is entitled to the assistance of appointed counsel throughout every stage of available judicial proceedings, including pretrial proceedings, trial, sentencing, motions for new trial, appeals, applications for writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States, and all available post-conviction processes, together with applications for stays of execution and other appropriate motions and procedures, competency proceedings, and

proceedings for executive or other clemency as may be available to the defendant. See 18 U.S.C. § 3599(e).<sup>1</sup>

3. Qualified counsel must be appointed in capital cases at the earliest possible opportunity.
4. Given the complex and demanding nature of capital cases, where appropriate, the court will utilize the expert services available through the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO), Defender Services Death Penalty Resource Counsel projects (“Resource Counsel projects”) which include: (1) Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel and Capital Resource Counsel Projects (for federal capital trials), (2) Federal Capital Appellate Resource Counsel Project, (3) Federal Capital Habeas § 2255 Project, and (4) National and Regional Habeas Assistance and Training Counsel Projects (§ 2254). These counsel are death penalty experts who may be relied upon by the court for assistance with selection and appointment of counsel, case budgeting, and legal, practical, and other matters arising in federal capital cases.
5. The federal community defender should promptly notify and consult with the appropriate Resource Counsel projects about potential and actual federal capital trial, appellate, and habeas corpus cases, and consider their recommendations for appointment of counsel. The federal community defender should promptly provide a recommendation regarding the appointment of qualified counsel. Absent good cause, the court must defer to the federal community defender’s recommendation.
6. The presiding judge may appoint an attorney furnished by a state or local public defender organization or legal aid agency or other private, non-profit organization to represent a person charged with a capital crime or seeking federal death penalty habeas corpus relief provided that the attorney is fully qualified. Such appointments may be in place of, or in addition to, the appointment of a federal

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<sup>1</sup> Such proceedings and processes may include, but are not limited to, actions under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics*, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), or the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 551 et seq.

defender organization or a CJA panel attorney or an attorney appointed pro hac vice. See 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(a)(3).

7. All attorneys appointed in federal capital cases must be well qualified, by virtue of their training, commitment, and distinguished prior capital defense experience at the relevant stage of the proceeding, to serve as counsel in this highly specialized and demanding litigation.
8. All attorneys appointed in federal capital cases must have sufficient time and resources to devote to the representation, taking into account their current caseloads and the extraordinary demands of federal capital cases.
9. All attorneys appointed in federal capital cases should comply with the [American Bar Association's 2003 Guidelines for the Appointment and Performance of Defense Counsel in Death Penalty Cases](#) ([Guidelines 1.1](#) and [10.2](#) et seq.), and the [2008 Supplementary Guidelines for the Mitigation Function of Defense Teams in Death Penalty Cases](#).
10. All attorneys appointed in federal capital cases should consult regularly with the appropriate Resource Counsel projects.
11. Questions about the appointment and compensation of counsel and the authorization and payment of investigative, expert, and other service providers in federal capital cases should be directed to the AO Defender Services Office, Legal and Policy Division Duty Attorney at 202-502-3030 or via email at [ods\\_lpb@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:ods_lpb@ao.uscourts.gov).

C. Appointment of Trial Counsel in Federal Death-Eligible Cases<sup>2</sup>

1. General Requirements

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<sup>2</sup> The Judicial Conference adopted detailed recommendations on the appointment and compensation of counsel in federal death penalty cases in 1998 ([JCUS-SEP 98](#), p. 22). In September 2010, the Defender Services Committee endorsed revised commentary to the Judicial Conference's 1998 recommendations. [CJA Guidelines, Vol. 7A, Appx. 6A \(Recommendations and Commentary Concerning the Cost and Quality of Defense Representation \(Updated Spencer Report, September 2010\)\)](#) ("Appx. 6A") is available on the judiciary's website.

- a. Appointment of qualified capital trial counsel must occur no later than when a defendant is charged with a federal criminal offense where the penalty of death is possible. See 18 U.S.C. § 3005.
- b. To protect the rights of an individual who, although uncharged, is the subject of an investigation in a federal death-eligible case, the court may appoint capitally-qualified counsel upon request, consistent with Sections C.1, 2, and 3 of this section.
- c. At the outset of every capital case, the court must appoint two attorneys, at least one of whom meets the qualifications for “learned counsel” as described below. If necessary for adequate representation, more than two attorneys may be appointed to represent a defendant in a capital case. See 18 U.S.C. § 3005.
- d. When appointing counsel, absent good cause the judge must defer to the recommendation of the federal community defender, who will consult with Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel to recommend qualified counsel. See 18 U.S.C. § 3005.
- e. To effectuate the intent of 18 U.S.C. § 3005 that the federal community defender’s recommendation be provided to the court, the judge should ensure the federal community defender has been notified of the need to appoint capitally-qualified counsel.
- f. Reliance on a list for appointment of capital counsel is not recommended because selection of trial counsel should account for the particular needs of the case and the defendant, and be based on individualized recommendations from the federal community defender in conjunction with the Federal Death Penalty Resource Counsel and Capital Resource Counsel projects.
- g. Out-of-district counsel, including federal defender organization staff, who possess the requisite expertise may be considered for appointment in capital trials to achieve

high quality representation together with cost and other efficiencies.

- h. In evaluating the qualifications of proposed trial counsel, consideration should be given to their commitment to the defense of capital cases, their current caseload including other capital cases, and their willingness to effectively represent the interests of the client.

## 2. Qualifications of Learned Counsel

- a. Learned counsel must either be a member of this district's bar or be eligible for admission pro hac vice based on his or her qualifications. Appointment of counsel from outside the jurisdiction is common in federal capital cases to achieve cost and other efficiencies together with high quality representation.
- b. Learned counsel must meet the minimum experience standards set forth in 18 U.S.C. §§ 3005 and 3599.
- c. Learned counsel should have distinguished prior experience in the trial, appeal, or post-conviction review of federal death penalty cases, or distinguished prior experience in state death penalty trials, appeals, or post-conviction review that, in combination with co-counsel, will assure high quality representation.
- d. "Distinguished prior experience" contemplates excellence, not simply prior experience. Counsel with distinguished prior experience should be appointed even if meeting this standard requires appointing counsel from outside the district where the matter arises.
- e. The suitability of learned counsel should be assessed with respect to the particular demands of the case, the stage of the litigation, and the defendant.
- f. Learned counsel must be willing and able to adjust other caseload demands to accommodate the extraordinary time required by the capital representation.



- g. Learned counsel should satisfy the qualification standards endorsed by bar associations and other legal organizations regarding the quality of representation in capital cases.

### 3. Qualifications of Second and Additional Counsel

- a. Second and additional counsel may, but are not required to, satisfy the qualifications for learned counsel, as set forth above.
- b. Second and additional counsel must be well qualified, by virtue of their distinguished prior criminal defense experience, training and commitment, to serve as counsel in this highly specialized and demanding litigation.
- c. Second and additional counsel must be willing and able to adjust other caseload demands to accommodate the extraordinary time required by the capital representation.
- d. The suitability of second and additional counsel should be assessed with respect to the demands of the individual case, the stage of the litigation, and the defendant.

### D. Appointment and Qualifications of Post-Conviction Counsel in Federal Death Penalty Cases (28 U.S.C. § 2255)

- 1. A financially eligible person seeking to vacate or set aside a death sentence in proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is entitled to appointment of fully qualified counsel. See 18 U.S.C. § 3599(a)(2).
- 2. Due to the complex, demanding, and protracted nature of death penalty proceedings, the court should consider appointing at least two attorneys.
- 3. In light of the accelerated timeline applicable to capital § 2255 proceedings, prompt appointment of counsel is essential. Wherever possible, appointment should take place prior to the denial of certiorari on direct appeal by the United States Supreme Court.
- 4. When appointing counsel in a capital § 2255 matter, absent good cause the court must defer to the recommendation of the federal

community defender, who will consult with the Federal Capital Habeas § 2255 Project.

5. Out-of-district counsel, including federal defender organization staff, who possess the requisite expertise may be considered for appointment in capital § 2255 cases to achieve high quality representation together with cost and other efficiencies.
  6. Unless replaced by similarly qualified counsel upon motion by the attorney or motion by the defendant, capital § 2255 counsel must represent the defendant throughout every subsequent stage of available judicial proceedings and all available post-conviction processes, together with applications for stays of execution and other appropriate motions and procedures, and must also represent the defendant in such competency proceedings and proceedings for executive or other clemency as may be available to the defendant. See 18 U.S.C. § 3599(e).
  7. Counsel in § 2255 cases should have distinguished prior experience in the area of federal post-conviction proceedings and in capital post-conviction proceedings.
  8. When possible, post-conviction counsel should have distinguished prior experience in capital § 2255 representations.
  9. In evaluating the qualifications of proposed post-conviction counsel, consideration should be given to the qualification standards endorsed by bar associations and other legal organizations regarding the quality of legal representation in capital cases.
  10. In evaluating the qualifications of proposed post-conviction § 2255 counsel, consideration should be given to their commitment to the defense of capital cases, their current caseload including other capital cases, and their willingness to effectively represent the interests of the client.
- E. Appointment and Qualifications of Counsel in Federal Capital Habeas Corpus Proceedings (28 U.S.C. § 2254)

1. A financially eligible person seeking to vacate or set aside a death sentence in proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 is entitled to the appointment of qualified counsel. See 18 U.S.C. § 3599(a)(2).
2. Due to the complex, demanding, and protracted nature of death penalty proceedings, the court should consider appointing at least two attorneys.
3. When appointing counsel in a capital § 2254 matter, absent good cause, the appointing authority must defer to the recommendation of the federal community defender who will consult with the National or Regional Habeas Assistance and Training Counsel projects.
4. Out-of-district counsel, including federal defender organization staff, who possess the requisite expertise may be considered for appointment in capital § 2254 cases to achieve cost and other efficiencies together with high quality representation.
5. In order for federal counsel to avail themselves of the full statute of limitations period to prepare a petition, the court should appoint counsel and provide appropriate litigation resources at the earliest possible time permissible by law.
6. Unless replaced by similarly qualified counsel upon motion by the attorney or motion by the defendant, capital § 2254 counsel must represent the defendant throughout every subsequent stage of available judicial proceedings and all available post-conviction processes, together with applications for stays of execution and other appropriate motions and procedures, and must also represent the defendant in such competency proceedings and proceedings for executive or other clemency as may be available to the defendant. See 18 U.S.C. § 3599(e).
7. Counsel in capital § 2254 cases should have distinguished prior experience in the area of federal post-conviction proceedings and in capital post-conviction proceedings.
8. When possible, capital § 2254 counsel should have distinguished prior experience in capital § 2254 representations.

9. In evaluating the qualifications of proposed capital § 2254 counsel, consideration should be given to the qualification standards endorsed by bar associations and other legal organizations regarding the quality of legal representation in capital cases.
10. In evaluating the qualifications of proposed capital § 2254 counsel, consideration should be given to proposed counsel's commitment to the defense of capital cases, their current caseload including other capital cases, and their willingness to represent effectively the interests of the client.

XVI. Effective Date

This Plan will become effective when approved by the Judicial Council of the Seventh Circuit.

ENTERED FOR THE COURT on this 11th day of June, 2025.

  
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TANYA WALTON PRATT, CHIEF JUDGE  
United States District Court

APPROVED BY THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT ON  
this 3rd day of July, 2025.

s/David E. Hollar  
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: David E. Hollar, Circuit Executive  
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh  
Circuit