

## NOTICE REGARDING NEW CJA SERVICE PROVIDER RATES

The Court has approved the following rates for CJA experts/service providers effective November 1, 2016.

Accident Reconstruction	\$200
Ballistics/Firearms	\$300
Cell Phone Forensics	\$225
Computer Forensics	\$225
DNA Experts	\$250
Fingerprint Experts	\$175
Forensic Accountants	\$225
Forensic Pathologists	\$250
Gang Experts	\$150
Handwriting Analysis	\$150
Investigators	\$ 75
Mitigation	\$ 90
Neuropsychologists	\$300
Paralegals/Law Clerks*	\$ 55
Psychiatrists	\$350
Psychologists	\$250
Toxicologists	\$300

The hourly fee ranges listed above have been approved by the Court as presumptive, meaning the Court will approve up to these amounts absent special circumstances demonstrated by the litigant or found by the Court.

Any request for an increase in the presumptive rates must be accompanied by a detailed statement indicating the basis for a claim of inability to find an expert willing to serve at that rate, or a statement demonstrating the uniqueness of the case calling for special expertise. The rate approved is subject to a cap on the total amount approved. The court may, in its discretion, order a different hourly rate for testimony and/or travel, and it may order a flat rate for certain services, i.e., polygraphs, competency exams, and neurological testing.

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\* Counsel who employ in-house paralegal and/or law clerk staff may be paid at a rate that is less than or equal to the hourly cost (salary and benefits, not including overhead) to the firm, not to exceed \$55 per hour.

All authorizations for services approved prior to November 1, 2016, will remain in effect at the rate previously approved. If an attorney wishes to increase the hourly rate for work performed on or after November 1, 2016, a motion must be filed requesting an increase in the hourly rate for work performed on or after November 1, 2016. The new hourly rates will not be retroactively applied for services completed prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition to the new hourly rates for service providers, a new travel policy was also adopted. The policy is as follows:

Unless otherwise approved by the presiding judge, privately retained investigators, experts, and other service providers in CJA cases must bill travel time at 50% of the approved normal billing rate, subject to exceptions (A) and (B) below.

(A) The first six hours traveling by automobile to, and the first six hours traveling by automobile from, a case-related destination (i.e., a destination relevant to the responsibilities or duties assigned to the expert or service provider by the attorney for the defendant).

(B) Reasonable travel time at or around the case-related destination in order for the expert or service provider to complete the responsibilities or duties assigned to the expert or service provider by the attorney for the defendant.

Time spent performing case-related work while traveling, by any mode of transportation is not "travel time" and should be compensated at the full hourly rate. Case-related work is work relevant to the responsibilities or duties assigned to the expert or service provider by the attorney for the defendant.

If you have questions regarding the new rates or travel policy, please contact the CJA department.