

Increases to the Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorney Hourly Rates and Case Compensation Maximums

CJA Panel Attorney Hourly Rate Increases

The panel attorney hourly rates increase to \$155 for non-capital work and \$197 for capital work. The new rates apply to services performed on or after January 1, 2021. Where the appointment of counsel occurred before January 1, 2021, 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 \$12,100, \$8,600, and \$2,600.² (The \$3,400 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, 2021. 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, 2021.

Investigative, Expert, or Other Services Case Compensation Maximums

The federal pay adjustment also increases the case compensation maximum for investigative, expert, or other services. The new waivable case compensation maximum amount with prior authorization is \$2,700. The \$2,700 maximum, which excludes expenses, applies to each individual service provider in a non-capital representation.³ (The case compensation maximum amount without prior authorization remains \$900.)

The new case compensation amount applies to a voucher submitted by a service provider if that provider furnished any CJA-compensable work in the representation on or after January 1, 2021. The former case compensation amount applies if the provider's work on the representation was completed before January 1, 2021.

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).

³ *Guide*, Vol. 7A, § 310.20.10(b). This limitation does not apply in capital representations; the case maximum for investigative, expert, or other services in capital representations is governed by a different statute, 18 U.S.C. § 3599(g)(2), and has not changed.

The charts in the publicly accessible *Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume 7A (CJA Guidelines)* are in the process of being revised. You can locate the charts in eVoucher under the Link's tab Guidelines ([Current CJA Rates and Case Compensation Maximums and History of CJA Rates](#))