

NOTICE TO THE BAR

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCIES ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PANEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PANEL PROGRAM FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT ATTORNEYS FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Since 1971, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey has maintained a list of attorneys to be appointed as counsel for eligible defendants pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act (“CJA”), 18 U.S.C. §3006A. The Court has adopted a CJA Plan, revised as of April 26, 2018 and effective August 22, 2018, which “particularize(s) the requirements of the CJA, the USA Patriot Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 . . . and Guide, Vol. 7A, in a way that meets the needs of this district.” In summary, the CJA Plan has established a Panel Selection and Management Committee which shall meet annually to consider applications for the District’s CJA Panel. The District’s CJA Panel will consist of attorneys, divided by vicinage, who are members in good standing of the Bar of this District and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, who maintain a primary, satellite, or shared office in this District and who 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. The CJA Committee will select attorneys for the CJA Panel based upon merit and experience.

All current members of the CJA Panel are required to reapply for membership on the Panel, regardless of their current term expiration date. Membership on the CJA Panel is ordinarily for a term of three years. To establish staggered CJA membership terms, those attorneys selected to be on the Panel will initially be divided into three groups, equal in number, and will be assigned to one, two- or three-year terms, randomly. See Criminal Justice Act Plan, Section IX(C)(6).

The new Plan establishes a senior CJA Panel of experienced criminal defense attorneys. The CJA senior Panel will be selected by the Court from the pool of applicants to the overall CJA Panel and will serve indefinite terms. See Criminal Justice Act Plan, Section IX(C)(4).

Attorneys seeking membership on the CJA Panel who need experience to meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Criminal Justice Act Plan, Section IX(3), may pursue membership on the CJA Training Panel. The CJA Training Panel has been established to, “increase diversity and ensure the availability of qualified applicants to the CJA Panel by providing attorneys who do not have the required experience for membership on the CJA Panel with an opportunity to gain the experience necessary to provide high quality representation in federal criminal cases...” See Criminal Justice Act Plan, Section XIII(C).

The Court invites all attorneys interested in becoming members of the CJA Panel to submit an application to William T. Walsh, Clerk, United States District Court, via e-mail at njcja@njd.uscourts.gov; on or before December 5, 2018. The application must be in PDF format. The application form and copies of the CJA Plan may be downloaded from the Court’s website at: <http://www.njd.uscourts.gov/panel-information>, located under “CJA Panel Application Form”. No application will be considered unless it is received in PDF format no later than December 5, 2018.

The Court, in conjunction with the Office of the Federal Public Defender, the Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey and the Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys of New Jersey, will arrange annual training programs for new and experienced panel members. It is anticipated that the application and selection process will be completed on or before January 31, 2019.

All qualified attorneys are encouraged to apply for membership on the CJA Panel. Any inquiries regarding the CJA Plan or the application process should be directed to William T. Walsh, Clerk, United States District Court, Martin Luther King, Jr. Building & U.S. Courthouse, 50 Walnut Street, Room 4015, Newark, New Jersey, 07101, telephone number 973- 645-6697, or Michelle Bilardo, Court Services Manager, 402 E. State Street, Room 2020, Trenton, NJ 08608, telephone number 609-989-2363, email Michelle_Bilardo@njd.uscourts.gov.