

APPLICATIONS FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT (CJA) PANEL AND CJA MENTORSHIP PANEL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

The Standing Committee for the Western District of Washington will be considering applications for the CJA Attorney Panel and the CJA Mentor Panel in January, 2020. The prerequisites for participation on panels are:

- a. Applicants for both the CJA Attorney Panel and CJA Mentor Panel must be admitted to practice and be in good standing in the State of Washington, the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- b. Applicants for both the CJA Attorney Panel and CJA Mentor Panel must maintain a primary, satellite, or shared office in this district and have sufficient resources and support to manage CJA assignments.
- c. Applicants for both the CJA Attorney Panel and CJA Mentor Panel must have significant experience representing persons charged with serious or complex criminal offenses and demonstrate a commitment to the defense of people who lack the financial means to hire an attorney and must have strong litigation skills.
- d. Applicants for the CJA Attorney Panel must 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. Applicants for the CJA Mentor Panel must agree to learn these topics through second chair experience and mandatory attendance at monthly CLE programs.
- e. 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 Standing Committee's consideration.

If interested in applying, additional information about the panel and mentor program and an application are found on the Federal Public Defender web site under the CJA tab:

<http://waw.fd.org/>



CJA Mentor Program Summary

The CJA Administration is submitting a proposal to the District Court for funding for a mentor program to prepare criminal defense lawyers for federal practice. If approved, the program would provide paid second-chair experience, guidance, and training as an on-ramp for CJA panel membership.

The proposed program consists of two tiers. Tier I is intended for attorneys with substantial criminal defense experience but minimal or no federal experience. Participation would include two second-chair appointments, in which the mentee would provide representational services from the cases' beginning to end under the guidance of an experienced CJA panel attorney. The mentee would also be required to attend monthly hour-long training sessions on federal defense primer topics. The mentor would be compensated at the prevailing CJA rate and the mentee would be compensated at a rate set by the Court.

Tier II is intended for attorneys with more significant federal criminal experience who would still benefit from guidance before attaining full CJA panel membership. Participants would receive regular CJA appointments in cases that appear not to be particularly complex. They would also be assigned a mentor from the CJA panel, who would not be appointed as counsel of record, but would be authorized to provide advice for a limited number of hours at the prevailing CJA rate. Tier II participants would also be required to attend training sessions.

Questions about the proposal may be directed to CJA Resource Counsel
Jenn Kaplan at jennifer_kaplan@fd.org.

NAMES OF PARTNERS AND/OR ASSOCIATES ON CJA PANEL:

BAR NO. _____ HOW LONG HAVE YOU ACTIVELY PRACTICED LAW? _____

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/BAR MEMBERSHIPS: DATE OF ADMISSION:

1. Have you ever been on a CJA panel in another district? If so, please list the district(s) and dates of service.

2. Have you ever been the subject of a bar complaint or the defendant in any criminal or civil case? Yes No

If “yes”, please describe in detail, *on a separate sheet*, the circumstances surrounding the complaint, including dates, and the outcome.

3. Have you ever been disciplined by the bar of any state or sanctioned by any court? Yes No

If “yes”, please describe in detail, *on a separate sheet*, the circumstances surrounding the complaint or sanction, including dates, and the outcome.

4. Do you carry Professional Malpractice Insurance with minimum limits of \$200,000.00 for each occurrence? Yes No

5. Are you fluent in any foreign language to the extent that you could represent a client who only spoke that language without the use of an interpreter? Yes No

Languages(s): _____

6. Please describe the electronic capability of your office.

7. On a separate sheet, please elaborate on your criminal trial experience, including number of trials, whether the cases were state or federal, and whether the charges were misdemeanors or felonies. Also, list by name and case number each federal and state felony criminal case in this district from the last three years in which you were an attorney of record.

8. Are you knowledgeable about the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. §§ 3551-3586), and the Bail Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3156)? Yes No

9. Please list all training programs you attended in the last three years that relate to federal criminal practice.

10. Please describe your familiarity/experience with immigration law.

11. Please list any special qualifications you have, such as public defender, prosecuting attorney, federal law clerk, etc.

12. Do you have experience handling capital cases? If so, please provide details?

13. The Court is committed to assuring that the CJA Panel's membership is sensitive to the diversity of the defendant population it serves. What background, experience and perspectives would you bring to the Panel that would contribute to high quality legal representation for the diverse indigent population in Washington?

14. Case appointments involve all kinds of alleged criminal behavior. Keeping the best interests of a client in mind, is there any kind of criminal offense which you would not want to accept appointment for any personal reason(s), e.g., sexual crimes, firearm offenses, complex matters? If so, please state which types:

15. Please briefly explain why you have applied to be appointed to the CJA Panel.

16. Please submit, with your application, a sentencing memorandum you have recently authored and filed in either a federal or state criminal case.

17. Are you willing to consider appointment to represent pro se litigants in Federal Habeas Corpus Petition - 28 U.S.C. 2254 cases? Yes No

18. Are you willing to be placed on the list of attorneys who take appeals? Yes No

19. List the names and phone numbers of three judges and three lawyers who know of your abilities as a trial attorney:

Judges:	Attorneys:

20. Have you ever been accused of workplace sexual harassment, and if so, was there a finding made against you? If yes, please explain on a separate sheet. Yes No

I hereby certify that the answers given by me to the foregoing questions and statements made are true and correct, without mental reservations of any kind whatsoever. I certify that I have read and am familiar with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, Sentencing Guidelines and the Local Rules as well as the January 2017 Minimum Technology Requirements for Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorneys for the Western District of Washington. If I should be appointed under the application, I will comply with all requirements, orders, rules and regulations administered by the Court. I also authorize the above-named individuals to give any information they may have regarding me. I acknowledge that information

received by the CJA Standing Committee will be held in strict confidence and I waive any right to review statements made to that Committee. If, upon investigation, anything contained in this application is found to be untrue, I understand that I will be subject to dismissal at any time during the period of my appointment.

Dated

Signature of Applicant

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH A LETTER OF INTEREST AND A CURRENT RESUME IN PDF TO:

Michael Filipovic, Federal Public Defender michael_filipovic@fd.org

Natalie Harmon, CJA Administrator natalie_harmon@fd.org

Jennifer Kaplan, CJA Resource Counsel jennifer_kaplan@fd.org