

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 10-15**

Spanish-Speaking CJA Panel Attorneys

WHEREAS, by Administrative Order No. 10-02, the Court re-established the Criminal Justice Act Panel (CJA Panel); and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing population of Limited-English-proficient, Spanish-speaking defendants with cases in the Criminal Division; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant population of these defendants who require interpreter services in order to effectively communicate with their attorneys; and

WHEREAS, under our present CJA appointment process, non-Spanish-speaking attorneys are frequently appointed to represent such defendants, resulting in the need to replace the attorneys at a later point in the case and resulting in potential unnecessary CJA expenditures for alternative counsel and interpreter services; and

WHEREAS, the Court has an interest in providing high-quality attorney representation to all defendants who appear before the Court, regardless of their language barriers, consistent with Goal 2-1 (and Strategy 2.1.1) of the Court's Strategic Plan for 2008-2012 ("The D.C. Courts will promote access to justice for all persons"); and

WHEREAS, the Court had the assistance of Spanish-speaking members of the Superior Court Trial Lawyers Association (SCTLA) who served on an Advisory Committee for the Selection of Spanish-speaking Attorneys, which purpose was to address this need and to conduct a screening process to assist in identifying interested CJA Panel attorneys qualified to serve as regularly assigned Spanish-speaking attorneys;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee for the Selection of Spanish-speaking Attorneys, the CJA Panel attorneys on the attached list are designated to represent Limited-English-proficient Spanish-speaking defendants; it is further

ORDERED, that such attorneys are responsible for accepting appointment to new criminal cases, or assisting the Stand-In Counsel in Arraignment Court for cases where the defendants are in need of an attorney who speaks the Spanish language; it is further

ORDERED, that these attorneys will be assigned week by week, pursuant to a schedule to be developed with the assistance of SCTLA Board member, John Machado, Esquire, or another designated SCTLA representative, in order to provide coverage for each week of the year; it is further

ORDERED, that during their weeks of coverage, these attorneys will accept appointment to cases where the defendant requires a Spanish-speaking attorney, as identified by the Arraignment Court judicial officer, and will be available to handle these proceedings in Arraignment Court as well as all subsequent proceedings in such cases; it is further

ORDERED, that the list of Spanish-speaking CJA Panel attorneys may be modified to include attorneys who become qualified in the future; and it is further

ORDERED, that at all times, judicial officers have the discretion in cases deemed appropriate, such as complex cases, to appoint CJA Panel attorneys who are not on the list of Spanish-speaking CJA Panel Attorneys.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: October 6, 2010

/s/

Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge

Copies to:

Judges
Senior Judges
Magistrate Judges
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Court
Division Directors
Director, CJA Office
Director, CCAN Office
Attorney Advisor
Defender Services Branch
Public Defender Service
Criminal Justice Act Office
Librarian
District of Columbia Bar
Daily Washington Law Reporter
D.C. Webmaster

Spanish-Speaking CJA Panel Attorneys

1. **Hugo Alfaro**
2. **Elita Amato**
3. **Henry Escoto**
4. **Christina Lugo-Raskin**
5. **John Machado**
6. **Maria Mendoza**
7. **Joseph Molina**
8. **Frank Nieves-Fernandez**
9. **David Vega**
10. **Joseph Virgilio**
11. **James Word**