

# District of Columbia Court of Appeals

## NOTICE

The D.C. Court of Appeals is seeking attorneys to represent indigent appellants in criminal appeals on both a paid and pro bono basis. Beginning April 14, 2025, the court will be accepting new applications from qualified attorneys who wish to serve on its Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel. **Attorneys currently serving on the CJA Panel need not re-apply in order to remain on the panel.** The court is also accepting, on a rolling basis, applications from attorneys interested in working on criminal appeals pro bono. Applications for both the CJA Panel and for the court's pro bono registry are available at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/cja-practitioner>. If you have questions regarding either paid or pro bono opportunities in criminal appeals, please contact the court's Deputy Staff Counsel Abraham Sisson at [asisson@dcappeals.gov](mailto:asisson@dcappeals.gov).

### CJA Panel

CJA Panel attorneys are paid by the court to represent indigent appellants in criminal appeals. The average CJA Panel attorney is appointed to approximately one case per month; however, attorneys can request to be appointed on a more or less frequent basis. The current hourly rate for CJA panel attorneys is \$110, and attorneys may be compensated up to **\$190,000** per calendar year for work performed pursuant to their panel appointments, subject to applicable limitations on maximum compensation per case (which can be exceeded for particularly large or complex cases). Attorneys are also reimbursed for expenses, which do not count toward the annual \$190,000 limit. Resources available for CJA Panel members include trainings offered through the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), as well as the PDS-CJA Appellate Consultation and Assistance Program, through which the PDS Appellate Division staff consults on briefs and arranges moot courts for CJA Panel attorneys.

Prior to submitting a CJA Panel application, applicants must read Miscellaneous Order No. M-217-03, which establishes a Continuing Legal Education requirement for attorneys on the CJA Panel; the 2006 Notice to CJA Counsel Concerning the Annual CLE Requirement; the memorandum titled "Obligations of Counsel," **updated August 4, 2023**; and the Voucher Guidelines for Attorneys Appointed by the D.C. Court of Appeals Under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act. These documents, along with other documents relevant to the CJA Panel, are available on the court's website at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/cja-practitioner>. Attorneys interested in joining the panel must email the completed application including a writing sample to [cjaapplication@dcappeals.gov](mailto:cjaapplication@dcappeals.gov). Submission of an application constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of the "Obligations of Counsel" terms.

**An attorney who submits an application to the CJA Panel must be a registered e-filer at the time their application is submitted. In addition, because the court makes all payments via the web voucher portal, successful applicants must complete the required financial forms.**

**All applications and updates must be received no later than May 19, 2025.** The court expects to notify successful applicants before the end of June 2025.

### Pro Bono Registry

In addition to accepting new CJA Panel members, the court is developing a pro bono registry

through which attorneys may be assigned to represent one or more indigent criminal appellants per year on a pro bono basis. Attorneys participating in the registry are not obligated to accept any particular case for assignment. As with the CJA Panel application, the pro bono registry application can be found at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/cja-practitioner>.