

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**



To: All Criminal Justice Act ("CJA") Panel Members

Cc: U.S. District Court Judicial Officers, DPR
Office of the Clerk of Court, DPR

From: 
Aida Delgado-Colón, Chief Judge
Chair, Criminal Justice Act Committee

Date: February 5, 2016

Subject: Elimination of Requirement of 20% Withholding on All Interim Vouchers

On July 12, 2012, consistent with a series of steps approved by the Judicial Council of the First Circuit, the District Court issued a memorandum "*Court Adopting Judicial Council for First Circuit's Criminal Justice Act Cost Containment Measures*", in which it implemented or reiterated several measures geared to comply with Criminal Justice Act ("CJA") Guidelines and budgetary restrictions. Among the measures approved for implementation by the Circuit was the withholding of twenty percent (20%) of all attorney interim vouchers in non-capital cases, consistent with Section 230.73.10 of the CJA Guidelines.

Considering that for the current fiscal year the Judiciary has been approved a reasonably sound budget, as compared to previous years, and in consultation with Circuit Court officials, the District Court hereby informs that, effective immediately, it has eliminated the requirement of a 20% withholding on all interim vouchers, as set forth in the July 12, 2012 memorandum. Please note that, notwithstanding the aforementioned action, a presiding trial judge, when considered necessary and appropriate in a specific case, may require a 20% withholding when authorizing interim vouchers. See Section 230, Appendix 2C of the CJA Guidelines

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the Clerk's Office at 787-772-3016.