

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



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

From: *Aida M. Delgado-Colón*
Aida M. Delgado-Colón
Chief U.S. District Judge
Chair, CJA Panel Committee

Date: August 28, 2013

Subject: **Court Adoption of Recommendation by Judicial Counsel on Presumptive Standard Rates for Expert Services and New Travel Time Policy**

During the past several months, due in large part to the number of multi-defendants criminal case filings in our jurisdictions and the high costs of prosecutions, the District Court of Puerto Rico has adopted several of measures geared to comply with CJA Guidelines and budgetary restrictions. Some of these measures include production of electronic discovery, policies for review of electronic notices of electronic filings ("NEF's"), among others.

At its May 8, 2013 meeting, the Judicial Council considered reports submitted by all courts of the First Circuit in response to the several CJA cost containment directives. The Judicial Council subsequently approved various cost containment recommendations and asked for continuous efforts in certain other areas.

In accordance with the requirements set forth by the Judicial Council, the CJA Panel Attorneys are to take notice that the Court has adopted the following presumptive standard rates for experts, as set forth below:

Paralegal	\$35-50
Mitigation Expert	\$100-\$130
Investigator	\$75-\$85
Pathologists	\$250
Psychologists	\$200-\$250
Psychiatrists	\$200
Neuro-psychologists	\$250-\$275

Absent exigent circumstances and prior court approval, the hourly rates for experts shall not exceed these presumptive rates.

In addition, the Court has adopted a fixed compensation for travel between counsel's office and the courthouse, and for travel between counsel's office and MDC, when counsel's office is

located in counties within the municipality of San Juan. The policy sets forth a maximum limit of 0.5 hours for travel to and from the Hato Rey Courthouse and 0.6 hours for travel to and from the Metropolitan Detention Center ("MDC") and the Old San Juan Courthouse. As part of this policy, all attorney travel time and millage billed must use counsel's office address as a starting point, except when the attorney's home is his or her's main office.

Finally, the Court adopts a standard rate for associates and contract attorneys in the District of Puerto Rico of \$45 to \$66.

The policies adopted herein supersedes all prior memorandums issued by the Court that address these particular matter. Further, the policies discussed above shall take effect immediately. All expert services rendered after this date will be subjected to the above rates. Any questions regarding the policies adopted herein should be directed to CJA Clerk Mayra Melendez at the Office of the Clerk of Court by telephone at 787-772-3057 or by email at prddb_cja@prd.uscourts.gov.