



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT *District of Rhode Island*

### NOTICE OF CJA COST CONTAINMENT INITIATIVES

As you no doubt know, the Judiciary, like other branches of the federal government, has been dealing with constrained budgets over the last few fiscal years. In response to this fiscal situation, the Judiciary has initiated a number of cost containment efforts that affect many programs. In particular, the District of Rhode Island has recently received direction from the First Circuit to begin applying and enforcing the below policies regarding CJA vouchers:

1. Requests for Expert Services. 18 U.S.C. §3006A(e)(2)(A) and Volume 7A, Chapter 3, of the *Guide to Judiciary Policy* (CJA Guidelines) set the limits for expenditures on expert service providers. Recently, the Court has received clarification of these two sections from the Office of Defender Services at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and the Circuit has asked that we share this new guidance with panel attorneys. Under the above-referenced sections, counsel may spend up to \$800 on expert service providers per case, not per category of service provider, without prior authorization from the Court. On a related note, the Court asks that counsel submit all requests to use non-interpreter expert service providers, regardless of the cost, to the Court for prior authorization.
2. Ancillary Matters. Under Vol. 7A, Ch. 2, § 210.20.30, attorneys may be compensated in “ancillary matters appropriate to the proceedings.” The Court requests that before you spend time representing your client in an “ancillary matter,” you seek advance authorization from the presiding judge. If the presiding judge determines that representation in an ancillary matter is not “appropriate to the proceedings” as required by the CJA Guidelines, panel attorneys will not be compensated for such time on their vouchers.
3. Interim Payments to Counsel. If counsel requests, and is granted, interim payments, the Court will withhold 20% of any interim payment until the end of the case.
4. Payments in Cases with Replacement Counsel. In cases where one CJA panel attorney is replaced by another in the same case, the Court will require the replaced counsel to submit a motion for early payment to be paid before the conclusion of the case. If counsel does not show good cause for early payment, the voucher will be held until the end of the case so that the presiding judicial officer can apportion the total compensation between the attorneys.

The Court appreciates your understanding and cooperation. We value the services you provide and wish to support you as you seek reasonable compensation and prompt payment. If you have any questions regarding these CJA cost containment initiatives, please contact Michael Simoncelli at 752-7220 or [Michael\\_Simoncelli@rid.uscourts.gov](mailto:Michael_Simoncelli@rid.uscourts.gov).

June 27, 2012

Mary M. Lisi, Chief Judge