

# Guide to Judiciary Policy

Vol. 7: Defender Services

Pt. A: Guidelines for Administering the CJA and Related Statutes

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## § 110 Defender Services Program

### § 110.10 Mission

The mission of the Defender Services program is to ensure that the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, the [Criminal Justice Act \(18 U.S.C. § 3006A\)](#) (CJA), and other congressional mandates is enforced on behalf of those who cannot afford to retain counsel and other necessary defense services. By fulfilling its mission, the Defender Services program helps to:

- maintain public confidence in the nation's commitment to equal justice under law; and
- ensure the successful operation of the constitutionally based adversary system of justice by which both federal criminal laws and federally guaranteed rights are enforced.

### § 110.20 Goals

The Defender Services program has four goals:

Goal 1: Provide timely assigned counsel services to all eligible persons.

Goal 2: Provide appointed counsel services that are consistent with the best practices of the legal profession.

Goal 3: Provide cost-effective services.

Goal 4: Protect the independence of the defense function performed by assigned counsel so that the rights of individual defendants are safeguarded and enforced.

### **§ 110.30 Authority**

(a) The Defender Services program operates under the statutory authority of the CJA and related statutes.

- Adequate Representation of Defendants ([18 U.S.C. § 3006A](#))
- Counsel and Witnesses in Capital Cases ([18 U.S.C. § 3005](#))
- Counsel for Financially Unable Defendants ([18 U.S.C. § 3599](#))
- General Rules for Civil Forfeiture Proceedings ([18 U.S.C. § 983\(b\)](#))

(b) Under [18 U.S.C. § 3006A\(h\)](#), the Judicial Conference of the United States is authorized to issue rules and regulations governing the operation of district plans created to furnish representational services (including counsel and investigative, expert, and other services necessary for adequate representation) to financially eligible persons. *Guide*, Volume 7A is a compendium of Conference policy adopted under that authority.

### **§ 120 Purpose**

This volume sets forth Judicial Conference policy on:

- appointment of counsel under the CJA and related statutes;
- payment of private “panel” attorneys;
- authorization and payment for services other than counsel in federal criminal representations; and
- policies specific to federal defender organizations.

### **§ 130 Applicability**

The guidance contained in this volume applies to the providers of services under the CJA and related statutes, federal courts, judiciary personnel, and all others responsible for the operation of any aspect of the Defender Services program.

## § 140 The eVoucher System

- (a) The eVoucher system is the judiciary's primary method for CJA panel voucher submission and processing. It enables:
- the administration of CJA panel appointments;
  - attorney voucher submission, review, and payments;
  - service provider authorization, voucher submission, review, and payments;
  - local reporting on CJA panel operations; and
  - the implementation of case budgets.
- (b) Policies on voucher review and approval are provided in [Guide, Vol. 7A, Ch. 2 \(Appointment and Payment of Counsel\)](#). CJA forms and accompanying instructions contain Judicial Conference policies and guidance for voucher administration and should be consulted in conjunction with this *Guide* volume and eVoucher's online help materials. PDF versions of the [CJA forms](#) and accompanying instructions are posted on the [judiciary's public website](#).

## § 150 Contact Information

For inquiries on the policies in *Guide*, Volume 7A, contact the Legal and Policy Division Duty Day Attorney in the AO's Defender Services Office at 202-502-3030 or by email at [dso\\_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:dso_lpd@ao.uscourts.gov).