



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

HONORABLE JOHN D. BATES
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

September 16, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: All United States Judges
Circuit Executives
Federal Public/Community Defenders
District Court Executives
Clerks, United States Courts of Appeals
Clerks, United States District Courts
Senior Staff Attorneys

From: Judge John D. Bates 

RE: TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PANEL ATTORNEY
PAYMENTS (**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**)

The fiscal year 2013 Defender Services financial plan assumed Criminal Justice Act (CJA) panel attorney payments would be suspended for the last three weeks in September 2013. Due to lower actual panel attorney payments than projected, we have been able to disburse payments beyond the point at which suspension was expected to begin. However, the funding provided for these payments has now been exhausted. As of September 17, 2013, all payments will be suspended and deferred until funding becomes available in fiscal year 2014. Assuming the continuation of government operations, the remaining 10 days of CJA panel attorney payments will be paid in full the week of October 1, 2013.

During this temporary suspension, judges should continue to appoint CJA panel attorneys for eligible defendants, authorize expert and other services as appropriate, and approve vouchers for payment as they were doing before payments were suspended. Courts and defender organizations should continue to process CJA vouchers submitted by panel attorneys, experts, service providers, court reporters, or for any other eligible CJA expense.

It should be noted that § 230.33 of the "Guidelines for Administering the CJA and Related Statutes" (Volume 7A, *Guide to Judiciary Policy*) provides that "Vouchers should not be delayed or reduced for the purpose of diminishing Defender Services program costs in response to adverse financial circumstances." Please note, all vouchers that are submitted will be paid when funding is available.

cc: CJA Panel Attorney District Representatives
CJA Supervising/Circuit Case-Budgeting Attorneys