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NEW REQUIREMENT FOR CJA PANEL ATTORNEYS OR ATTORNEYS SEEKING PANEL MEMBERSHIP

For many years the Western District of Arkansas has constituted CJA Panel Membership through informal means. Attorneys have requested membership on the panel or have been contacted directly by judges' or clerk's office staff requesting assistance in representing indigent defendants. Although the current method of providing quality attorneys to serve on the CJA Panels has been successful, the Court feels strongly that day-to-day panel management requires certain administrative changes.

Accordingly, the Court, through the auspices of the Panel Selection Committee (Chief Judge Jimm Larry Hendren, Magistrate Judge James R. Marschewski, Magistrate Judge Barry A. Bryant, Magistrate Judge Erin L. Setser, Federal Public Defender Jenniffer M. Horan, and CJA Panel Representative Morse Gist) has decided that effective immediately all members in good standing of the Bar who wish to be considered for membership on the CJA Panel for the Western District of Arkansas will be required to complete a panel attorney application.

The applications will be reviewed by the Panel Selection Committee, which will then make a recommendation to the Court regarding membership on the Panel. This process is intended to assure the highest level of representation for indigent defendants in federal court under the Criminal Justice Act.

The application requirement applies equally to current CJA Panel members and new attorneys interested in criminal CJA appointments in the Western District of Arkansas.

Membership on the CJA Panels for the Western District of Arkansas is for a term of five years, after which time there will be another application process.

For information concerning compensation (hourly rates, maximum compensation amounts, and expenses) under the Criminal Justice Act please go to the Western District of Arkansas' website www.arwd.uscourts.gov . To navigate to the information select "CJA Attorney Information" under "Menu". The following screen contains a number of links relevant to appointments under the Criminal Justice Act.

The due date for applications is June 1, 2011. The original and six copies of the application should be mailed to my attention at the following address:

**Christopher R. Johnson
United States District Clerk
Western District of Arkansas
Judge Isaac C. Parker Federal Building
30 South 6th Street, Room 1038 (UPS or FedEx)
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901-2437**

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