

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

CHAMBERS OF
KENNETH M. HOYT

June 1, 2006

Dear CJA Panel Attorney:

On October 5, 2005, the Southern District of Texas adopted a new Criminal Justice Act Plan entitled: Houston-Galveston Plan. Under this Plan, the Court will establish a new panel in the Houston and Galveston Divisions of approximately 100 private attorneys, who are eligible and willing to be appointed to provide representation to indigent defendants under the Criminal Justice Act.

All attorneys seeking CJA appointments in Houston and Galveston must submit an application and be approved for CJA appointment, regardless of previous service. While previous membership on the CJA panel may be considered, it is not a guarantee of future membership. The CJA Panel previously used by the Houston and Galveston Divisions has been suspended. To facilitate the transition, however, attorneys who are currently on the Panel will continue to receive appointments for 180 days or until the new Panel is appointed. After this transition period, counsel seeking appointments must be members of the new CJA Panel. Of course, attorneys who are currently serving as appointed counsel will continue to represent their clients.

Copies of both the new CJA Plan and the Application for Admission to the CJA Panel are available on the Southern District of Texas website, www.txs.uscourts.gov, the Federal Public Defender website, www.fpdsonline.org, and at the Attorney Admissions Office. Applications will be evaluated by the Panel Selection Committee established by the Court. Applicants should indicate whether they are seeking appointments in Galveston, Houston or both.

Attorneys who serve on the CJA Panel must be members in good standing in the Southern District of Texas and the State Bar of Texas. They must also have demonstrated experience in, and knowledge of, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Attorneys admitted as members of the Panel shall serve at the pleasure of the Court and shall serve for a term of three years. Thereafter, if a panel member wishes to remain on the Panel, he or she must submit a new application.

The Court anticipates that this newly constituted CJA Panel will ensure quality representation for eligible defendants, as well as a balanced distribution of appointments among members of the Panel. Further inquiries can be made to the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas at (713) 718-4600.

Sincerely,



Kenneth M. Hoyt
United States District Judge