



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Office of the District Court Executive

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief Judge

EDWARD A. FRIEDLAND
District Court Executive

**COURT NOTICE TO THE
BAR** April 17, 2026

CONTACT
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**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR CRIMINAL
JUSTICE ACT PANEL**

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York is seeking applicants for the SDNY Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel. Applications are available on the court's website at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/forms/cja-panel-membership-application>. The application period will close on May 31, 2026.

The CJA Panel is comprised of private attorneys who are authorized to serve as appointed defense counsel pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A. To qualify for a position on the CJA Panel, attorneys must be members in good standing of the bar of the Southern District and have proven experience and competency in the field of federal criminal defense work.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of attorneys that will forward its recommendations to the Southern District Board of Judges' Defender Services Committee. The Court is committed to increasing the diversity of the applicant pool and encourages all qualified applicants, including qualified female and minority lawyers, to apply for positions.

Candidates can apply to be a member of the Foley Square Panel or the White Plains Panel or both. CJA Panel attorneys commit to being "on duty" one day every four to six months if a member of the Foley Square panel and approximately one day every month if on the White Plains panel. On that "duty day," CJA attorneys represent clients when the Federal Defender has a conflict; the hours of duty are from 9:00 a.m. until the closing of the Magistrate Judge's Office, which is sometimes after 5:00 p.m. CJA Panel members serve a three-year term and are reimbursed at the rate of \$177/hour for in-court and out-of-court time.

"We are fortunate to have such talented and skilled attorneys dedicated to providing indigent defendants with the representation to which they are constitutionally entitled," said United States District Judge Vernon Broderick, who is Chair of the Southern District's Defender Services Committee.

Southern District Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain said, "Our exemplary panel of CJA lawyers provides representation that is both excellent and essential. Panel attorneys ensure the protection of

defendants' constitutional rights and uphold the Rule of Law. We look forward to being able to invite additional outstanding practitioners to join them in this important work.”

Attorneys can also apply for membership on panels that represent defendants in capital cases and in non-trial work, primarily habeas corpus proceedings. In addition, the Southern District also sponsors a mentoring program that helps identify and prepare experienced state court practitioners for appointment to the Panel. While the mentorship program is aimed at increasing the diversity of the Panel, the program is open to all. Contact Peter Quijano at 212-686-0666 or Anthony Ricco at 212-791-3919 for more information on the mentorship program.