



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

JAMES C. DUFF
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

March 4, 2011

MEMORANDUM

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

From:

James C. Duff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Duff". The signature is written in a cursive style.

RE:

UPDATE ON THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CJA PANEL ATTORNEY
PAYMENTS (**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**)

As stated in my [memorandum of March 2, 2011](#), the President has signed into law a two-week Continuing Resolution (CR) that extends funding until March 18, 2011. With the new CR, the Administrative Office (AO) will be able to resume making payments for vouchers that have been entered into the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) payment system, including those for transcripts ordered by panel attorneys (CJA 24s) and their investigators, experts, and other service providers (CJA 21s and 31s). Unfortunately, the CR provides only enough funding to pay for the vouchers that were processed but not paid during the recent suspension. These vouchers will be paid on March 7, 2011. The AO will not be able to pay any vouchers it receives beginning March 7, 2011, until Congress provides additional funding. Please note, *all* vouchers that are submitted *will be paid* when funding is available.

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 the CR. 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. You will note 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.” Again, all vouchers that are submitted ***will be paid*** when funding is available.

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