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**Recruitment Notice for Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Trial Attorney Panels for the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky**

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT TRIAL ATTORNEY PANEL

Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act of 1964, as amended (18 U.S.C. § 3006A) (the “CJA”), the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky has adopted a plan for providing representation to individuals who are financially unable to retain counsel in certain circumstances.  The plan provides for the establishment of panels of private attorneys who are eligible and willing to be appointed to provide representation under the CJA.  From March 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022, the Court will have an open application period during which those interested in serving as members of a CJA Panel may apply for membership on one of the Court’s panels.  CJA Panel members may serve in the Louisville, Bowling Green, Owensboro, or Paducah divisions.

ELIGIBILITY

Attorneys who serve on one of the Court’s CJA Panels must be members in good standing of the Kentucky Bar association for at least four (4) years and admitted to practice before this Court for at least two (2) years preceding the application. Applicants must additionally maintain an office in the division of the CJA Panel for which they seek membership. Specific qualifications are contained in in Section VII(C) of the Court’s [CJA Plan](https://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/content/general-order-2021-05) located on the Court’s website.

The Court is in the process of creating a mentorship program for applicants who meet the qualifications for panel membership generally, but who lack sufficient trial and courtroom experience. Recruitment for admission into this program will occur at a later date.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Attorneys interested in being appointed to a CJA Panel must submit an application, which can be found on the Court's website at <https://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/cja>, via email to [CJA\_Application@kywd.uscourts.gov](mailto:CJA_Application@kywd.uscourts.gov). No application should be submitted prior to March 1, and no application received after March 31 shall be accepted without consent of the Chief Judge.

Approval of attorneys for membership on a CJA Panel will be made by the Court after review of all eligible applications, consideration of relevant case data and consultation with the CJA Panel Committee. For more information, please visit [www.kywd.uscourts.gov/cja](http://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/cja).

**James J. Vilt, Jr.**

**Clerk of Court**