

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY**

**James J. Vilt, Jr.
Clerk of Court**



**RECRUITMENT NOTICE FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT TRIAL ATTORNEYS AND
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

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.

Attorneys seeking admission to 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](#) located on the Court’s website.

THE CJA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky maintains a CJA Mentorship Program which is designed to identify and help prepare viable candidates to qualify for consideration for appointment to a CJA Panel. Attorneys admitted into the program are appointed as associate counsel with experienced members of the federal criminal defense bar to provide representation in appropriate cases in order to gain the requisite experience to, ultimately, become eligible for full CJA Panel admission. More information may be found [here](#).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Attorneys interested in being appointed to a CJA Panel or the CJA Mentorship Program should submit the relevant application, each of which can be found on the Court's website at <https://www.kywd.uscourts.gov/cja>, via email to CJA_Application@kywd.uscourts.gov anytime from March 1 to March 31, 2026.

Approval of attorneys for membership on a CJA Panel and the CJA Mentorship Program 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.