

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
GENERAL ORDER 20-0015**

**April 3, 2020**

**IN RE: CJA PANEL ATTORNEYS INTERIM COMPENSATION DURING COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

The Court has issued a Second Amended General Order 20-0012 dated March 30, 2020, limiting court operations in response to the public health emergency arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. That order continues all scheduled criminal jury trials to a date on or after June 1, 2020 and essentially continues all other scheduled proceedings in criminal cases to a date on or after May 4, 2020, subject to exceptions and emergency relief described therein.

Many criminal defendants in the Northern District of Illinois are represented by CJA Panel Attorneys. Under existing procedures, CJA Panel Attorneys may submit claims for compensation only after final disposition of the case, unless an order for interim payments is entered in a particular case. While interim payment orders are routinely issued in death penalty cases, they have not routinely been issued in non-death penalty cases.

The Court recognizes that the disruption to Court operations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may also cause a disruption in timely payments to, and place a financial burden on, CJA Panel Attorneys.

In light of the scale of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the economic impact upon CJA Panel Attorneys, the Court hereby authorizes CJA Panel Attorneys to submit interim vouchers for compensation in non-death penalty cases as set forth below:

1. Interim vouchers may be submitted under this Order for payment through the eVoucher system on any pending non-death penalty case. Interim vouchers for attorney fees may be submitted in amounts of no less than \$250; vouchers for court reporters or interpreters may be submitted regardless of the dollar amount.

2. Interim vouchers submitted under this Order by any one appointed attorney in any one case may not exceed the case compensation maximum for that case either individually or in total. Present case compensation maximums can be found at §230.23.20 of the *Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act*.
3. Billing for a partner or associate attorney working for an appointed attorney pursuant to §230.53.10(b) of the *Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act* is counted towards total billing.
4. An attorney who was appointed to replace a prior CJA Panel Attorney is entitled to submit interim vouchers pursuant to this Order. Where the interim voucher, exceeds the case compensation maximum, counsel should submit a memorandum justifying the excess payment, together with the interim voucher. If the total exceeds the case compensation maximum, approval of excess payment by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will be required.
5. The 20% withholding otherwise required by Local Criminal Rule 44.1 Par. 5 and 6 will not be applied to interim payment vouchers submitted under this Order.
6. The requirements for reimbursement for expenses as set forth in Local Criminal Rule 44.1 Pars. 7-13 remain in effect.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order does not override or amend interim payment orders that have been entered in specific non-death penalty cases, does not override or amend the operation or issuance of interim payment orders in death penalty cases, and does not override or amend the procedures now in place for submitting final vouchers in completed cases.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order remains in effect until further Order of the Court. The Court reserves the right to amend, modify, or terminate this Order at any time.

ENTER:  
FOR THE COURT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca O. Pacheco", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020