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2
3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
4 FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

5 IN RE:

6 UPDATES TO CJA COUNSEL
7 INTERIM VOUCHER SUBMISSION
8 AND SERVICE PROVIDER FEES
9

GENERAL ORDER 08-22

10 This General Order is being issued to update certain procedures for Criminal Justice
11 Act (“CJA”) Panel Attorneys. Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, claims for
12 compensation by CJA Panel Attorneys were generally submitted after the final disposition
13 of a case. Interim vouchers were permitted only when counsel made a showing that the
14 case was extended and/or complex in nature. On April 6, 2020, this Court issued General
15 Order 05-20 authorizing interim vouchers for compensation without prior Court approval,
16 provided that such vouchers exceeded \$1,000 and were submitted no more than once per
17 month. General Order 05-20 was limited to the period of disruption to Court operations
18 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
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22 This General Order amends GO 05-20 to make its provisions permanent. Going
23 forward, CJA Panel Attorneys may submit interim vouchers for compensation without
24 seeking prior Court approval, provided that the interim vouchers exceed \$1,000 and are
25 submitted no more than once a month.
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27 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(e)(2), CJA appointed counsel are required to obtain
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1 prior authorization from the District Court for any service provider fees in excess of
2 \$900.00 per case. The Court previously issued General Order 06-19 authorizing paralegal,
3 investigator, and interpreter services up to \$2,600 each without obtaining prior
4 authorization from the Court, provided that CJA counsel and service providers otherwise
5 complied with 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(e)(2) and agreed to be bound by the presumptive hourly
6 rates established by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council.
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9 On April 1, 2021, this Court adopted presumptive hourly rates for this District
10 that varied from the rates established by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council for
11 investigators and paralegals. These variances were approved by the Ninth Circuit. The
12 Guide to Judiciary Policy, § 310.20.10(A), also increased the waivable maximum case
13 compensation for expert services to \$2,700.
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16 This General Order therefore amends General Order 06-19 to allow CJA
17 counsel to utilize the services of paralegals, investigators, and interpreters at the district's
18 rates rather than the Ninth Circuit's rates, up to \$2,700 for each service provider for each
19 case without obtaining prior authorization from the Court.
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21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 DATED this 13th day of July, 2022.
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27 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
28 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE