

# FEDERAL DEFENDER SERVICES OF EASTERN TENNESSEE, INCORPORATED

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December 9, 2013

Dear Panel/Training Panel Member:

After much discussion and careful study, it has been decided that the parts of the CJA Plan dealing with the composition of the CJA Panels should be revised to assure quality representation for indigent defendants. The changes to the CJA Plan which may be found at <http://www.tned.uscourts.gov/cja.php> have been approved by the Sixth Circuit. The changes include the following:

1. Adoption of three year terms.
2. Requirement that panel attorneys accept two cases per year.
3. Requirement that three hours per year of approved, relevant CLE, be completed.
4. Membership on only one division's panel.

Much has changed over the last few years, and this was an opportune time to review the Plan. One of the biggest changes has been the growth of the panels to the point that panel attorneys are not receiving a sufficient number of appointments each year.

Everyone, including training panel attorneys, is being asked to reapply. The new application form can be found on the Court's website under the attorney tab at <http://www.tned.uscourts.gov/cja.php> and on the federal defender's website at [www.fdset.org](http://www.fdset.org) under Panel Support. The applications are due in the office of Federal Defender Services of Eastern Tennessee by January 10, 2014. You may mail it to the address on the application or you may email it to the address on the application. You will receive an email when your application is received. Please note that you may apply to be on only one division's panel. You will also receive notice of action on your application. Until the new panels are chosen, the current panels will remain active.

Panel members will serve terms of three years.<sup>1</sup> At the end of the term, panel members may reapply and, depending on variables such as the number of multi-defendant cases being filed by the United States Attorney's Office, the panel member may continue on the panel without a break in service.

Two requirements for remaining on the panel are the earning of at least three hours of CLE credit each year at a seminar relevant to federal criminal defense and accepting at least two cases per year when contacted by the Clerk's Office. All seminars sponsored by the Federal Defender's Office or the Office of Defender Services will satisfy this requirement. Application for approval for other seminars may be made to the Panel Selection Committee in your division.

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<sup>1</sup> There will be staggered terms of 1, 2, and 3 years at the beginning.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Ford at 637-7979.

Sincerely,

FEDERAL DEFENDER SERVICES  
OF EASTERN TENNESSEE, INC.

By:

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Elizabeth B. Ford  
Community Defender