Service Provider Presumptive Hourly Rates

Note: When a range is provided, the high end of a listed range is not the presumptive rate. Rather, rates vary based on locality, education, specialization, certification, licensing, and experience, as determined by the Second Circuit Case Budgeting Attorney.

Investigators, Mitigation Specialists, and Paralegals

Type of Provider	Standard Rate	Special Skills Rate	Comments
Investigator (Capital and Non-Capital Cases)	$110	$110-$125	Special skills rate is for cases needing foreign language fluency or other specialization, such as mastery of one or more relevant areas of forensic science (e.g., forensic psychology or digital forensics) or high-level experience in the type of alleged offense. If there is good cause, counsel may seek to retain the services of an investigator whose base of operations is outside the geographic area where the services will be rendered, but counsel must negotiate a lower rate for travel time and/or negotiate a cap for paid travel time.
Mitigation Specialists - Capital Cases	$150	$160	Special skills rate is for providers with a master's degree, and for cases needing foreign language fluency or other specialized expertise. The rate will be reduced to the non-capital rate if the government opts against seeking the death penalty. In a capital case, if a "no-seek" decision is rendered, the mitigation specialist's rate is reduced to the non-capital rate. Prior approval is not needed to retain a mitigation specialist in budgeted cases when the mitigation specialist is within the case budget and is paid the presumptive rate.
Mitigation Specialists - Non-Capital Cases	$125	$125-$135	Special skills rate is for providers with a master's degree, and for cases needing foreign language fluency or other specialized expertise. Prior approval is not needed to retain a mitigation specialist in budgeted cases when the mitigation specialist is within the case budget and is paid the presumptive rate.
Paralegal	$75	$85	Special skills rate is for those with technology skills necessary to perform complex litigation support or discovery database management (including subjective coding), and for cases needing foreign language fluency or capital case expertise. If a paralegal is a full-time employee of the panel member's firm, counsel may seek reasonable compensation which exceeds the presumptive rate and recognizes the added costs

			associated with maintaining the paralegal as an employee. For guidance about establishing this rate, counsel should contact the Case Budgeting Attorney.

Other Service Providers

Type of Provider	Standard Rate	Comments
Accident Reconstruction	$150-$200	.
Accountant	$150-$350	
Accounting Staff	$65	E.g., reviewing/summarizing/preparing financial records
Attorney Expert - Capital	CJA Hourly Rate	
Attorney Expert - Non-Capital	CJA Hourly Rate	E.g., immigration expert. DSO has established a partnership with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) through its Defender Initiative and is available to answer queries (at no cost) from CJA practitioners regarding non-citizen clients. (Email defenders@heartlandalliance.org)
Audio, Video, Photo Forensic Analyst	$125-$200	E.g., analyzing audio, video, or photo evidence
Audio, Video, Photo Technician	$25-$100	E.g., creating video exhibits, taking or enlarging photos, enhancing audio or video recordings, etc.
Ballistics/Firearms Expert	$150-$300	
Chemist/Toxicologist (M.D.)	$275-$400	
Chemist/Toxicologist (B.S. or PhD)	$150-$275	
Computer/Cellphone Cellular Tower Forensic Analyst	$200-$325	
Crime Scene/Police Practices/Use of Force Expert	$150-$250	
DNA Expert (B.S. or PhD)	$150-$300	
Fingerprint Analyst	$150-$300	
Gang Expert	$150-$300	
Handwriting Analyst	$100-$250	
Interpreter/translator for in-person meetings	$44-$80	(See Appendix F)
Jury Consultant	$150-$225	

Law Student or Intern	$25-$50	
Legal Analyst/Consultant (Non-Attorney)	$75-$100	E.g., Sentencing Guidelines consultant
Medical – Other (M.D./ D.O.)	$275-$400	
Mentee (Second Circuit CJA Mentoring Program)	$103	
Neurologist or Neuropsychiatrist (M.D.)	$275-$400	
Neuropsychologist (PhD)	$250-$375	
Nurse (L.P.N. or R.N.)	$100-$125	
Nurse (M.S.N. or D.N.P.)	$150-$300	Including S.A.N.E. certified
Pathologist/Medical Examiner	$275-$400	
PhD - Other	$200-$300	
Polygraph	$150-$250	Polygraph testing typically billed at flat rate between $500 and $1,250
Psychiatrist (M.D.)	$275-$400	
Psychologist (PhD)	$200-$300	
Translation - Foreign Language Document	$60-$90/hour or up to .27 cents per word	Some languages might receive a higher rate, based upon the availability of a qualified interpreter. Large volume translations, including PSRs, require consultation with the CBA. When counsel seeks to have large volume documents translated (e.g., a PSR), counsel should contact the Case Budgeting Attorney to identify a vendor.
Transcription - English Audio	$4.40 per page	Reimbursement for federal court proceedings must be submitted on CJA Form 24 and requested in district court, whether for use in district court or the Court of Appeals.
Transcript and Translation Combined - Foreign Audio	$35-$85	Combined translation and transcription of foreign audio recordings are typically billed by the hour, not per word or page, for non-automated services. Rates vary based on language, interpreter certification, and recording quality.