

[CLEAR](#)[PRINT](#)

**DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO
CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT PANEL
APPLICATION For Calendar Year 2027**

The following application is to be completed by attorneys who wish to serve on the CJA Panel in the District of New Mexico. **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION to Joseph A. Niskar, CJA Coordinating Attorney (NM_CJA@fd.org), ON OR BEFORE JULY 31, 2026 IF YOU WISH FOR IT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026-2027.** If more room is needed for complete answers to any questions, please attach additional pages.

1. Background Information

Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Name of Firm

Street Address

City State Zip Code

Office Phone Number Office Fax Number Cell Phone Number

Email Address

States of Admission	Bar Numbers	Dates of Admission

2. Areas of Experience (Please indicate number of cases you have defended in each practice area or employing each special skill.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Computer Forensics | ☐ Violent Offenses/Hobbs Act |
| ☐ Firearms Offenses | ☐ White Collar Cases |
| ☐ Indian Country Prosecutions | |
| ☐ Large Narcotics Conspiracy Prosecutions | |
| ☐ Psychiatric and Psychological Issues | |
| ☐ Re-Entry/Immigration Cases | |
| ☐ Sentencing Mitigation | |
| ☐ Sex Offenses | |

Please briefly explain your training and experience in these fields.

3. Please indicate any languages other than English you speak, and indicate your level of fluency in each.

4. Please mark if you have attended a CLE seminar on any of the following topics in the past three years.

- ☐ United States Sentencing Guidelines
☐ Federal Criminal Law
☐ Federal Rules of Evidence
☐ Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure
☐ Electronically Stored Information (ESI)

Please briefly describe the training.

5. Are you willing to attend six hours of continuing legal education per year offered by the Federal Public Defender? Yes ☐ No ☐

General Felony Panel

Applicants for the General Felony panel must have at least five years criminal practice experience or three years as an Assistant United States Attorney or Assistant Federal Public Defender; ten felony trials, at least three of which are federal trials; or alternatively significant federal non-trial experience or significant state court trial experience.

Complex Case Panel

Members of the Complex Case panel will be appointed in multi-defendant cases or cases which are complex based on the nature of the prosecution, number of defendants or novel issues of law. Complex cases will include without limitation those presenting a possible maximum sentence of life in prison, cases with multiple charges or cases with multiple defendants. Members of the Complex panel will often be tasked with difficult clients. Applicants will have had demonstrated experience in cases of this nature.

Auxiliary Panel

Members of the Auxiliary Panel will handle such matters as misdemeanor offenses within federal jurisdiction, supervised release and probation petitions, and material witness representation.

Habeas/Postconviction Panel

Members of the Habeas/Postconviction panel will handle direct appeals to the Tenth Circuit, district court representation in 2241, 2254 and 2255 proceedings or related litigation, such as was seen in connection with the *Johnson, Borden*, and the First Step Act cases, as well as compassionate release matters. **Please attach a writing sample to your application if applying for this panel.**

6. For which panel(s) are you applying? (You may apply for ABQ/SF or LC, but not both.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Albuquerque/Santa Fe General Felony | ☐ Las Cruces General Felony |
| ☐ Albuquerque/Santa Fe Complex | ☐ Las Cruces Complex |
| ☐ Albuquerque/Santa Fe Auxiliary | ☐ Las Cruces Auxiliary |
| ☐ Habeas/Postconviction | ☐ Roswell Auxiliary |

7. Please provide information concerning your experience in the past ten years, describing state and federal felony cases in which you have been involved as the first chair counsel of record, and the number of jury trials in which you have been lead counsel. If necessary, please attach additional pages.

Please describe other relevant experience. Please briefly explain your training and experience in these fields. If needed, please attach additional pages.

8. Have you read and are you familiar with:

The Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The Federal Rules of Evidence?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The Federal Sentencing Guidelines?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The Bail Reform Act?	Yes ☐	No ☐

Please describe your experience with each of the above.

9. Do you have:

A physical office in which to meet clients and family?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Unrestricted internet access?	Yes ☐	No ☐
A CM/ECF account?	Yes ☐	No ☐
Access to an online legal research account like Westlaw or Lexis?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The ability and willingness to accept collect phone calls from prisons and jails?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The ability and willingness to regularly visit your clients in custody?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The ability to receive, organize, and review discovery in an electronic format?	Yes ☐	No ☐
The ability to participate in a trial lasting more than ten days?	Yes ☐	No ☐

10. Please describe your experience with case management and courtroom presentation software such as PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat/Pro, DtSearch, Casemap and Timemap, Trial Director or other similar programs:

11. Are you interested in handling § 2255 actions? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please describe your experience in handling IAC claims and other post-conviction proceedings.

12. Are you interested in death penalty defense? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please briefly explain your training and experience in this area.

13. Are you a member of the CJA panel in any other jurisdiction, including Circuit panels?
Yes ☐ No ☐

If so where?

14. Have you ever been removed from a CJA panel?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please explain.

15. Where did you go to law school, and in what year did you receive your JD degree?

16. Have you ever been disciplined before any court in which you have appeared, or been found in contempt by any court? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please explain.

17. Have you ever been found to have provided ineffective assistance of counsel?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please explain.

18. Do you anticipate using any associate(s) to assist in the representation of CJA clients? If so, please provide the name of the associate(s) and their years of criminal law experience.

19. Are you able to accept approximately six felony CJA cases per year? Yes ☐ No ☐

20. Are you willing to serve as a mentor for a lawyer less experienced in federal criminal cases as a part of a structured mentorship program? Yes ☐ No ☐

21. Are you willing to gain experience by participating in a structured mentorship program as a mentee, at a reduced hourly compensation rate for your service in those cases? Yes ☐ No ☐

22. Please provide three references, including one prosecutor, who are familiar with your legal skills.

Name

Phone Number or Email

Name

Phone Number or Email

Name

Phone Number or Email

23. Why do you want to be a member of the CJA panel?

I certify that I am a member in good standing with the State Bar of New Mexico and U.S. District Court of New Mexico; and that the information I have provided is true and correct.

Dated: _____

Signature

“Print” document by selecting Adobe PDF as the printer. In the **Comment and Forms** box, Select **Document and Markups**. Please submit to CJA Coordinating Attorney, Joseph A. Niskar via email to: NM_CJA@fd.org