

SERVICE PROVIDER HOURLY RATES

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The high end of a listed range is not the presumptive rate. Rather, rates vary based on locality, education, specialization, certification, licensing, and experience. Depending on the circumstances in an individual case, a provider's rate may exceed the high end of a range upon a showing of good cause.

Courts may adopt their own service provider rate schedule based on local needs. However, court-specific rates may not exceed the high end of a below-listed range without approval of the Chief Circuit Judge. When a "special skills" rate is authorized based on case-needed foreign language fluency, only those tasks requiring use of the foreign language should be billed at the higher rate.

Counsel are expected to negotiate lower travel rates for high-cost service providers, preferably at 50 percent of the provider's services rate. Because some courts within the Fourth Circuit may have travel limitations such as reduced rates or billable time maximums, counsel should consult with local CJA staff regarding applicable travel policies. Time spent performing case-related work while traveling is not "travel time" and should be compensated at the full hourly rate.

| Investigators, Mitigation Specialists, and Paralegals | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Court-specific rates vary based on unique locality needs. Thus, the high end of a range is not the presumptive rate. For providers who work in multiple courts, the approved rate will be based on the applicable court's presumptive rate, not prior authorizations in other courts. | | | |
| | Standard Rate | Special Skills Rate | |
| Investigator – Capital Cases | \$90 – \$100 | \$100 – \$115 | Special skills rate is for case-needed 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 a high level of experience in the type of alleged offense. The rate may be reduced to a non-capital rate if the Government opts against seeking the death penalty. |
| Investigator – Non-capital Cases | \$75 – \$90 | \$90 – \$115 | Special skills rate is for case-needed 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 a high level of experience in the type of alleged offense. |

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| | Standard Rate | Special Skills Rate | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---|
| Mitigation Specialist – Capital Cases | \$100 – \$125 | \$125 – \$150 | Special skills rate is for case-needed foreign language fluency, specialized mental health expertise, or mastery of the <i>Atkins</i> intellectual disability standard. The rate may be reduced to a non-capital rate if the Government opts against seeking the death penalty. |
| Mitigation Specialist – Non-capital Cases | \$75 – \$100 | \$95 – \$125 | Special skills rate is for case-needed foreign language fluency or specialized mental health expertise. |
| Paralegal (non-J.D.) | \$55 – \$65 | \$65 – \$85 | Special skills rate is for those with the technology skills necessary to perform complex litigation support or discovery database management (including subjective coding), case-needed foreign language fluency, or capital case expertise. |
| Paralegal (J.D.) | \$65 – \$75 | \$75 – \$90 | Special skills rate is for those with the technology skills necessary to perform complex litigation support or discovery database management (including subjective coding), case-needed foreign language fluency, or capital case expertise. |

Other Service Provider Categories

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| Accident Reconstruction | \$150 – \$200 | |
| Accountant | \$125 – \$275 | |
| Accounting Staff (non-CPA) | \$65 | E.g., reviewing/summarizing/preparing financial records |
| Attorney Expert – Capital | CJA Hourly Rate | |
| Attorney Expert – Non-Capital | CJA Hourly Rate | E.g., immigration law expert |
| Audio, Video, Photo Forensic Analyst | \$125 – \$200 | |
| 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 | |
| Canine Expert | \$125 – \$200 | |
| Chemist/Toxicologist (B.S. or Ph.D.) | \$150 – \$275 | |
| Chemist/Toxicologist (M.D.) | \$275 – \$400 | |

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| Computer/Cellphone/Cellular Tower Forensic Analyst | \$150 – \$300 | |
| Crime Scene/Police Practices/Use-of-Force Expert | \$150 – \$250 | |
| DNA Expert (B.S. or Ph.D.) | \$150 – \$250 | |
| Fingerprint Analyst | \$150 – \$250 | |
| Gang Expert | \$150 – \$200 | |
| Handwriting Analyst | \$100 – \$250 | |
| Interpreter/Translator for in-person meetings | \$44 – \$80 | Range accommodates both certified and non-certified providers. Half-day rate is \$320 for certified and \$190 for non-certified. |
| Jury Consultant | \$150 – \$225 | |
| Law Student | \$20 – \$30 | |
| Legal Analyst/Consultant (Non-Attorney) | \$75 – \$90 | E.g., Sentencing Guidelines consultant. |
| Medical – Other (M.D. or D.O.) | \$275 – \$400 | |
| Neurologist or Neuropsychiatrist (M.D.) | \$275 – \$400 | |
| Neuropsychologist (Ph.D.) | \$225 – \$375 | |
| Nurse (L.P.N. or R.N.) | \$100 – \$125 | |
| Nurse (M.S.N. or D.N.P.) | \$150 – \$250 | Including S.A.N.E. certified. |
| Pathologist/Medical Examiner | \$275 – \$400 | |
| Ph.D – Other | \$150 – \$300 | |
| Polygraph | \$100 – \$250 | Polygraph testing typically billed at a flat rate between \$350 and \$1,000. |
| Psychiatrist (M.D.) | \$275 – \$400 | |
| Psychologist (Ph.D.) | \$150 – \$350 | |
| Translation – Foreign Language Document | Up to 20 cents per word | |
| Transcription – English Audio | \$3.65 per page | <u>Contract court reporter rate</u> (without foreign translation) for non-automated transcription services. NOTE: Reimbursement for transcripts of federal court proceedings must be submitted on Form CJA-24 in eVoucher and requested in District Court, whether for use in District Court or the Court of Appeals. |
| Transcription 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. |

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