

Appointed Counsel shall timely inform their client of all matters relating to the preparation, trial and disposition of the case, offers of plea bargains, appellate and writ rights, deadlines and such other matters necessary to provide reasonable assistance of counsel.

Appointed Counsel shall represent a defendant until the charges are dismissed, the defendant is acquitted, appeals are exhausted, or the attorney is relieved of his duties by the Court or replaced by other counsel after a finding of good cause is entered on the record.

VIII.

REMOVAL FROM PUBLIC APPOINTMENT LISTS

Attorneys previously approved and placed on the public appointment lists will be removed from the lists at the request of said attorney. Any such request must be submitted in writing to the Local Administrative Judge or the Counsel Coordinator. Removal from the Court Appointment list does not relieve said counsel of further representation of previously appointed defendants.

Repeated failure to contact or interview clients in a timely manner, submission of an improperly documented request for payment, repeated failure to fulfill the duties required by law, rules, these Local Rules or ethical provisions for providing reasonable assistance of counsel, may result in removal of an attorney's name from a Public Appointment List.

IX.

COMPENSATION OF COUNSEL

A. Legal Fees

All fee payment requests must be itemized by appointed counsel on forms approved by the District Judges and the County Judge. All requests shall be submitted

to the Judge presiding over the proceedings for review and approval, and submitted to the county auditor for payment.

1. Appointed attorney shall be compensated on fee basis in accordance with the schedule of fees adopted by formal action of the District Judges and the County Judge.
2. The rates shall be uniform among all Courts, and take into consideration the complexity of the case, the experience and ability of the attorney, time spent in court making an appearance for the defendant as evidenced by a docket entry, time spent in trial, time spent in a proceeding in which sworn oral testimony is elicited, reasonable and necessary time spent out of court supported by any documentation required by the Court, preparation of appellate briefs and preparation of a Motion for Rehearing, the potential punishment faced by the defendant, and reasonable office overhead costs.
3. If the Trial Judge recommends disapproval of the requested amount of payment, the Judge shall make written findings, stating the amount of payment that the Judge approves and each reason for approving an amount different from the requested amount. (Note: no payment will be made when a defendant is arrested for the purpose of either an Administrative Hearing or Judicial Summons or Review of a probation matter. If a motion to revoke probation is later ordered filed, payment will be made under the Chambers County Fee Payment Schedule.)
4. Any disapproved fee payment request may be appealed by the appointed counsel to the Presiding Judge of the Second Administrative Judicial Region, as provided by the Fair Defense Act.

Chapter 3 B. Expenses

1. Appointment and reimbursement for reasonable and necessary investigation for mental health and other experts shall be as provided by

law and only upon written motion and prior approval of the Trial Judge for such appointment and anticipated reimbursement.

X.

FEE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A. FELONIES

1. PLEA OF GUILTY
 - a. \$350 per defendant; OR
 - b. \$50 per hour *
2. TRIALS (JURY OR NON-JURY):
 - a. \$200 per half day; plus
 - b. \$50 per hour trial preparation *
3. CAPITAL TRIALS:
 - a. \$300 per half day for 1st Chair.
 - b. \$200 per half day for 2nd Chair.
 - c. \$50 per hour trial preparation *
4. MTRP/MTIG:
 - a. Plea of True - \$250 per defendant; OR
 - b. \$50 per hour *
 - c. Plea of Not True: \$200 per half day; plus
 - d. \$50 per hour trial preparation *
5. APPEALS
 - a. \$1000 for appeals other than Capital; OR \$1500 for appeal of multiple cases on the same defendant.
 - b. \$4000 for Capital appeals;
 - c. Reimbursement for travel costs at County rate.

B. MISDEMEANORS

1. PLEA OF GUILTY/MTRP/MTIG:
 - a. \$200 per defendant, OR
 - b. \$50 per hour*
2. TRIALS (JURY OR NON-JURY); PREPARATION; HEARINGS:
 - a. \$175 per half day, PLUS
 - b. \$50 per hour for preparation*
3. APPEALS:
 - a. \$700

*With supporting documentation; any claim in excess of 10 hours billed, will require an appearance before the Court and sworn testimony to support payment of bill.

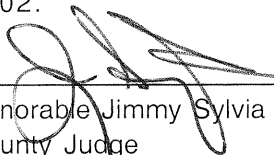
XI.

WAIVERS AND ORDER APPROVING PLAN

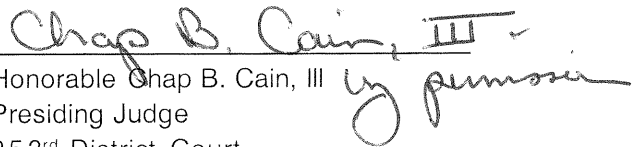
The District Judges and the County Judge retain authority to waive any portion of this plan in exceptionally justified cases or when determined necessary for the fair and impartial administration of justice.

These Local Rules of Administration were adopted by unanimous vote of the below signed judges and are effective beginning January 1, 2003.

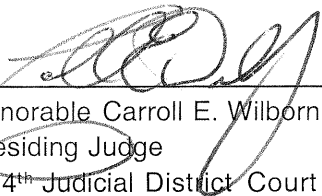
Signed and ORDERED this the 20th day of December, 2002.



Honorable Jimmy Sylvia
County Judge
Chambers County, Texas



Honorable Chap B. Cain, III *by permission*
Presiding Judge
253rd District Court



Honorable Carroll E. Wilborn, Jr.
Presiding Judge
344th Judicial District Court

The Local Rules of Administration set out above were approved by the Judges trying criminal cases in Chambers County and will be reported as required by law.

Attest: _____
Administrative District Judge for Chambers County, Texas