

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

# EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

## Helpful Travel Information for Court-Appointed CJA Attorneys

### Government Travel:

We have established a Government Travel Account (GTA) for use by CJA court-appointed attorneys, experts, and investigators. This GTA account allows authorized CJA attorneys and experts to (1) obtain discounted government travel on official CJA business trips, and (2) charge authorized tickets to a government credit card; such charges then are paid by the court rather than by the authorized traveler. Travel related to CJA representation may be arranged by adhering to the following procedures:

- a. A **written** Travel Authorization must be issued on court letterhead (signed by the presiding judicial officer) for each trip, a copy of which must be carried during the authorized travel for identification and presentation should an airline agent ask to see it. The traveling attorney/expert/investigator should motion the court when travel is anticipated. If confidentiality is a factor, travel requests may be submitted to the court ex parte, heard in camera, and placed under seal.
- b. After obtaining a Travel Authorization, the attorney or expert may call Omega World Travel (OWT) at 1-866-450-0401, and request tickets. The traveler should advise OWT of his/her status as a CJA panel attorney, expert, or investigator providing CJA representation or related service, and is required to provide OWT with the following "identifiers," which will be indicated on the Travel Authorization:
  - c. Defendant's Name
  - d. District Court Information
  - e. Travel Authorization Number

The traveler should instruct OWT where to send the tickets. If necessary, tickets may be pre-paid by OWT for pick-up at the airport counter.

Because the Travel Authorization is an official government document, it should enable the traveler to obtain official government rates at hotels as well. OWT is a full-service travel agency and can provide assistance with hotel reservations.

### **Meals:**

There is an emphasis on the prudent traveler rules, specifically the need to avoid “lavish or extravagant” meals or hotels. If claiming lodging or meals that exceed the maximum rates posted by GSA (including a breakdown of the individual meals rates for each location and which can be found on our public website), an AO Form 1012C must be completed by the traveler and submitted with the completed voucher. If an individual meal exceeds \$75.00 the 1012C must be also be completed and submitted with your voucher.

### **Documentation of Expenses:**

**Receipts must be detailed.** For instance, a dinner receipt must be the actual receipt from the restaurant and not the VISA slip. It must have detailed information such as the name of the restaurant, number of meals served, date and amount. If the receipt has been lost, you must complete the AO form 1012B “Missing Travel Receipt Report” and submit with your voucher. We will have the AO Forms 1012C and 1012B available on our website.

### **Post-travel Documentation:**

A copy of the Travel Authorization, court order allowing out-of-district travel, and airline ticket passenger receipt card, must be sent to the clerk's office with your voucher. Receipts are also required for all expenses related to travel (e.g., hotel, car rental, meals, etc.).

### **If you have any questions:**

If you have any questions, please call the clerk’s office and ask for the appropriate CJA case administrator assigned by case number.

Spokane clerk’s office: (509) 458-3400

Court’s Web Site: <http://www.waed.uscourts.gov>

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