

APPENDIX 2 – SERVICE PROVIDER HOURLY RATES

APPENDIX 2 – SERVICE PROVIDER HOURLY RATES

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, as explained in [Section V.D](#) of these policies.

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 Ninth Circuit 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	\$95 – \$110	\$115 – \$130	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	\$90 – \$105	\$110 – \$125	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.

APPENDIX 2 – SERVICE PROVIDER HOURLY RATES

	Standard Rate	Special Skills Rate	
Mitigation Specialist– Capital Cases	\$130 – \$145	\$150 – \$165	Special skills rate is for providers with a master’s degree, case-needed foreign language fluency or other specialized expertise. The rate may be reduced to a non-capital rate if the Government opts against seeking the death penalty.
Mitigation Specialist– Non-capital Cases	\$90 – \$105	\$110 – \$125	Special skills rate is for providers with a master’s degree, case-needed foreign language fluency, or other specialized expertise.
Paralegal (non-J.D.)	\$70 – \$80	\$85 – \$95	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.)	\$85 – \$95	\$100 – \$110	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		
Accident Reconstruction	\$150 – \$200	
Accountant	\$150 – \$325	Consider implementing tiered rates based on experience
Accounting Staff (non-CPA)	\$75	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. DSO has established a partnership with National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC), through its Defenders 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	
Audio, Video, Photo Technician	\$35 – \$100	E.g., creating video exhibits, taking or enlarging photos, enhancing audio or video recordings, etc.
Ballistics/Firearms Expert	\$150 – \$325	
Canine Expert	\$125 – \$200	
Chemist/Toxicologist (B.S. or Ph.D.)	\$150 – \$325	

APPENDIX 2 – SERVICE PROVIDER HOURLY RATES

Chemist/Toxicologist (M.D.)	\$300 – \$425	
Computer/Cellphone/Cellular Tower Forensic Analyst	\$175 – \$300	
Crime Scene/Police Practices/Use-of-Force Expert	\$150 – \$250	
DNA Expert (B.S. or Ph.D.)	\$150 – \$325	
Fingerprint Analyst	\$150 – \$250	
Gang Expert	\$150 – \$200	
Handwriting Analyst	\$100 – \$250	
Interpreter/Translator for in-person meetings	\$60 \$80 \$100	\$60 – Language skilled \$80 – Professionally qualified \$100 – Federally certified Districts may follow <u>full/half day rates</u>
Jury Consultant	\$150 – \$225	
College/Law Student or Intern	\$30 – \$45	
Legal Analyst/Consultant (Non-Attorney)	\$75 – \$100	E.g., Sentencing Guidelines consultant.
Medical – Other (M.D. or D.O.)	\$300 – \$425	
Neurologist or Neuropsychiatrist (M.D.)	\$300 – \$425	
Neuropsychologist (Ph.D.)	\$300 – \$400	
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	\$300 – \$425	
Pharmacist/Pharmacologist	\$200 – \$325	
Ph.D. – Other	\$200 – \$325	
Polygraph	\$100 – \$250	Polygraph testing typically billed at a flat rate between \$500 and \$1,500.
Psychiatrist (M.D.)	\$300 – \$425	
Psychologist (Ph.D.)	\$200 – \$325	
Translation – Foreign Language Document	Up to 25 cents per word	
Transcription – English Audio	\$4.00 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.

Revised: April 27, 2026