

To: Registry Attorneys
From: Stephen M. Presnell, General Counsel
Date: July 23, 2010
RE: Execution of JAC Agreement

On May 18, 2010, the JAC Agreements for fiscal year 2010/2011 were approved and those Agreements were posted on JAC's website on June 1, 2010. Any Agreements executed for prior years concluded effective June 30, 2010. JAC's records reflect that you have been approved for inclusion on a court-appointed registry for cases appointed on or after July 1, 2010 but do not appear to have executed a current Agreement. JAC has processed all Agreements received through July 22, 2010. Under section 27.40(3), F.S., attorneys participating in a court appointed registry must execute a JAC Agreement prior to accepting any court appointed cases. If you wish to receive appointments on or after July 1, 2010, you must execute a JAC Agreement without delay. Attorneys currently on the registry need to submit the 2010/2011 Agreement for Attorneys Services on or before August 6, 2010.

The contract is available at:

http://www.justiceadmin.com/court_app_counsel/contracts/Attorney%20changes%202010.pdf

Alternatively, if you don't wish to continue participating in the registry, please notify court administration and JAC so that you can be removed from the registry.

Execution of the Agreement is critical for many reasons including payment of attorney's fees and due process costs. Historically, there have been attorneys who have delayed signing the contract until they submit a bill for their own fees and costs. However, this has resulted in delays in payment to due process vendors such as court reporters because JAC could not issue payment to the vendor until the appointed attorney executed his or her agreement. Prompt payment to due process providers is essential because delays in payment can impact the willingness of those providers to provide services in court-appointed and indigent for costs cases.

Pursuant to section 27.40(3), F.S., the chief judge for each circuit is responsible for determining the attorneys authorized to accept court appointments. On August 13, 2010, JAC will be sending a comprehensive list of attorneys who have and have not signed the contract to the chief judges. If an attorney has not provided JAC with an Agreement by August 6, 2010, the chief judge may take action regarding the attorney's continued inclusion on a court-appointed registry. If you have any questions regarding executing the contract, please contact Connie Ramos toll-free at (866) 355-7902, ext. 264 or by email at connier@jac.state.fl.us. Thank you for your attention and cooperation so that the registry for each circuit can be finalized expeditiously.

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