



U.S. District Court
District of Massachusetts

2027 CJA Panel Mentorship Application

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has recently approved a CJA Mentorship Program designed to provide criminal defense attorneys with additional opportunities to obtain the federal court experience and skills they need for future consideration and approval to become members of the Criminal Justice Act Panel (the “CJA Panel”) for the District of Massachusetts.

The CJA Board for the District of Massachusetts (the “CJA Board”) expects that this newly-established Mentorship Program will help encourage and support an expansion of the diversity of attorneys eligible to represent indigent criminal defendants as part of the CJA Panel and will ensure that the Court continues to identify and train the best qualified candidates for the CJA Panel, which is comprised of attorneys who represent defendants in federal criminal proceedings in the District of Massachusetts pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act. Application to the CJA Mentorship Program is open to all qualified candidates.

The Mentorship Program will be administered by the CJA Board, which will manage the application process, select mentees (subject to review and approval by the Court), and pair those mentees with mentors from the CJA Panel to work as co-counsel on federal criminal matters. To broaden the training and experiences they receive, mentees may be rotated among different mentors. Subject to Court approval on a case-by-case basis, mentees are eligible for compensation in the matters on which they work at 80 percent of the approved CJA reimbursement rate.¹

Qualified candidates for the CJA Mentorship Program include state and federal practitioners with five or more years of criminal defense experience, including trial experience or similar in-court experience, and who would merit consideration for appointment to the CJA Panel with the additional federal criminal experience obtained through participation in the Program.

The expected length of participation in the Mentorship Program is two years. Mentees who successfully complete the Program will be encouraged to apply for appointment to the CJA Panel. Successful completion of the Program, however, does not guarantee appointment to the CJA Panel.

Applications to the Mentorship Program will be available through the District of Massachusetts’s website on September 2, 2026, and must be submitted by October 5, 2026, by 5pm to box.com.

Please note the instructions on the Court's website for downloading and completing this Application, including that the answers must be typed. More information about the mentorship program can be found at: <https://www.mad.uscourts.gov/attorneys/cja-info.htm>

Footnotes:

1. Mentees will be billed in eVoucher as an "Expert" on a form CJA-21.

General Information

I am applying for (pick one): Boston Springfield Worcester

1. Full Name:

Office Address:

Office Phone:

Office Email:

Office Fax:

Cell Phone:

Home Address:

Home Phone:

Race/Ethnicity:

Gender:

Bar Admissions

2. Year of Admission to the Massachusetts Bar:

Board of Bar Overseers number:

Year of admission to U.S. District Court (MA):

Year of admission to any other federal or state courts:

Education

3. Please list all colleges and professional schools attended (other than law schools), and date of degree.

4. Please list all law schools attended, and date of degree.

5. Please describe any significant activities, honors or awards at the above schools.

6. Please describe any experience you have as a judicial law clerk or staff attorney to a court.

7. Do you speak any foreign languages? Please identify them and your level of fluency.

Employment History

8. Please describe chronologically your employment or law practice since becoming a member of any state bar, including a description of your current practice.

Litigation Experience

9. Please describe any training or experience you have had with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, Bail Reform Act of 1984, and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Note: Not having experience is not a barrier to being a mentee.

10. Approximately what percentage of your practice in the last 5 years has been devoted to litigation?

_____ %

- a. What percentage of such litigation practice in the last 5 years was:

i.	Criminal	%
	Civil	%
	Other	%
		= 100 %

- ii. Practice in:

Federal	%
State	%
Other	%
	= 100 %

b. Please indicate the approximate number of criminal trials (bench or jury) you conducted in the past 5 years.

- ☐ None
- ☐ 1 to 5
- ☐ 6 to 10
- ☐ 11 to 20
- ☐ 21 or more

i. What percent of these trials were:

% Jury

% Non-jury

= 100 %

c. Please indicate the approximate number of criminal appeals handled over the past 5 years:

Federal:

State:

11. Please state the approximate number of criminal jury trials in the past 5 years in which you were:

a. Lead counsel in federal court? _____

If none, how many as second chair? _____

b. Lead counsel in Superior Court? _____

If none, how many as second chair? _____

c. Lead counsel in state district court? _____

12. Please state the approximate number of criminal cases in the past 5 years in which you were the lead prosecutor.

a. How many in Federal Court?

b. How many of these cases included a jury trial?

c. How many jury trials as a prosecutor in Superior Court?

Specific Case Experience

13. Please identify your three most recent jury trials in any Court, including the docket number, judge and counsel involved, and the nature of the case, including whether it was criminal or civil. Please include current phone numbers of the lawyers.

14. Please provide any other information, including any civil litigation experience, which may be helpful to the selection committee.

15. The Court is committed to assuring that the CJA Panel's membership is sensitive to the diversity of the defendant population it serves. What background, experience and/or perspectives would you bring to the Panel that informs your understanding and appreciation for people of diverse backgrounds -- whether racial, cultural, socioeconomic, ability, LGBTQ+, gender, or other characteristic? Whether or not you identify as someone who brings diversity to the panel, please share your perspective and how it would contribute to high quality legal representation of our diverse indigent population in Massachusetts.

Court Appointment Experience

16. Please briefly state the reasons that you have applied for a mentee position with the CJA Panel, and include any other information which you think would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application.

17. Please identify any specific areas or skills that you would like to work on with a mentor.

Community Outreach

18. Please describe any other community involvement and/or volunteer work that you believe may be relevant to your application. The Board has a particular interest if you have any other relevant experience representing and/or advocating for indigent members of the community, incarcerated individuals and/or members of historically marginalized communities.

Professional

19. Please describe your participation as a faculty member at continuing legal education programs, bar association conferences, or law school forums over the past five years. Please also list any law related teaching positions at universities or law schools over the last five years.
20. Please describe your attendance at continuing legal education programs, bar association conferences, or law school forums over the past five years.
21. Please identify your membership in bar associations or law-related organizations in the past five years, and any leadership positions that you have held.

Conduct

22. Have you ever been disbarred, suspended, reprimanded, censured, or otherwise disciplined, publicly or privately, as an attorney, or as a member of any other profession, or as a holder of any public office? Are any civil, criminal or disciplinary charges or complaints now pending against you? If so, please provide the details.

References

23. Please list the names and phone numbers of no more than three persons (who are not judges and who are not on the CJA Board) whom the CJA Board can contact to discuss your professional competence and qualifications for the CJA Panel.
24. Are you currently or have you ever been a member of any state court or other CJA panel? If yes, please provide the names of the panels and the dates of membership.

25. Do you authorize the Board to speak to Program Administrators from these panels and/or obtain records from these programs? If yes, please provide the phone number and/or e-mail address of the Panel Administrator or Supervisor we should contact.

Writing Sample

Please attach one example of a brief, memorandum of law, or similar example of legal writing in a criminal case. This must have been prepared solely by you within the past five years and not exceed ten pages. If you do not have a sample of this length, please include an excerpt from a longer document. **Do not exceed the ten-page limit.**

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

Date

Applicant's Signature

In addition, the application and writing sample must be emailed as separate pdf files to box.com submitted **no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2026**. Please label the pdf files [LAST NAME]-[FIRST NAME]-MentorshipApplication and [LAST NAME]-[FIRST NAME]-MentorshipWritingSample.

If more space is need to answer a question, please add additional sheets with associated question number.