



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS


HONORABLE JOHN D. BATES
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

October 2, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Clerks, United States Courts
Chief Probation Officers
Chief Pretrial Services Officers

From: Judge John D. Bates 

RE: 2015 FEES FOR CONTRACT COURT INTERPRETERS
(INFORMATION)

This is to advise you of an increase in the maximum rates of payment for contract court interpreters paid from the general authorization. **The new rates, listed below, become effective January 1, 2015.**

Certified and Professionally Qualified Interpreters:

Full-Day: \$412
Half-Day: \$223
Overtime: \$ 58 per hour or part thereof

Language Skilled (Non-Certified) Interpreters:

Full-Day: \$198
Half-Day: \$109
Overtime: \$ 34 per hour or part thereof

The half-day rate is paid for services up to and including four hours in one day; the full-day rate is paid for services in excess of four hours up to and including eight hours in one day; and the overtime/hourly rates apply if the workday exceeds eight hours, not including meal periods. This adjustment to the maximum rates does not automatically increase any exceptions to the rates previously approved.

This is a modest rate adjustment and is part of a continuing effort to ensure that the most qualified interpreters remain willing to provide services in the federal courts. The last rate adjustment occurred over four years ago, in February, 2010. The Court Interpreters Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1827(b)(3), indicates that when prescribing the fee schedule for interpreter services, the prevailing rates of compensation for comparable service in other governmental entities shall be considered. The new fee schedule aligns much more closely with recent increases in the rates being paid by other government entities and is intended to prevent the judiciary from being placed at a competitive disadvantage when competing for interpreting resources.

Courts may amend current contracts to incorporate these new maximum rates by preparing an [SF-30, Amendment of Solicitation/Modification of Contract](#). If, following negotiations, an interpreter will not accept the established rates, the court should proceed to request authorization to exceed these rates from the Court Services Office (prior to the scheduled use of the interpreter) by submitting a “Request for Authorization to Exceed Fee Schedule” which can be found on JNet at <http://jnet.ao.dcn/resources/forms/request-authorization-exceed-fee-schedule>.

If you have any questions on the payment of court interpreters or other aspects of the court interpreting program, please contact Javier Soler, Court Services Office, at (202) 502-3261 or via email at javier_soler@ao.uscourts.gov. If you have any questions concerning the SF-30 or the contracting process for court interpreters, please contact Don Parkins, Procurement Management Division, at (202) 502-1391 or via email at don_parkins@ao.uscourts.gov.

cc: Chief Judges, United States Courts
Circuit Executives
Federal Public/Community Defenders
District Court Executives
Court Interpreter Contacts