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STATE OF TEXAS

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IN THE DISTRICT COURTS

AND

144th, 175th, 186th, 187th, 226th,
227th, 290th, 379th, 399th, 437th

COUNTY OF BEXAR

HANDLING CRIMINAL CASES

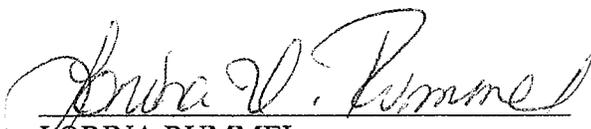
JOINT ORDER ADOPTING FEE SCHEDULE

In accordance with Article 26.05, Sections (b), (c), and (d) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the State of Texas, the undersigned, being the district court judges designated by the legislature to give priority to criminal cases in Bexar County, Texas, now adopt the attached Fee Schedule, effective for all vouchers submitted after November 1, 2015.

It is ORDERED that this Joint Order be spread upon the minutes of the respective courts, filed for a record in the offices of the District Clerk of Bexar County, and a copy sent to the Commissioners Court of Bexar County.

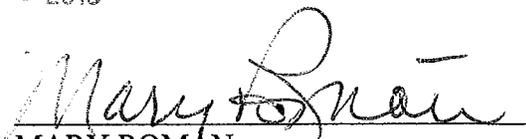
SIGNED, ORDERED and ENTERED the 14th day of October, 2015.

OCT 14 2015



LORINA RUMMEL

JUDGE
144th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



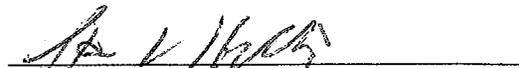
MARY ROMAN

JUDGE
175TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



JEFFERSON MOORE

JUDGE
186th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



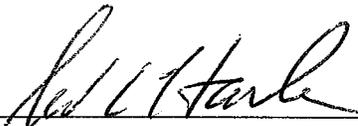
STEVEN C. HILBIG

JUDGE
187th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT BEXAR COUNTY TEXAS

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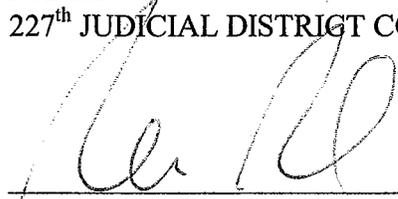
SID L. HARLE
JUDGE
226th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



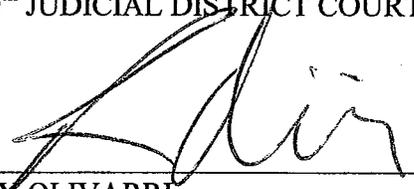
KEVIN O'CONNELL
JUDGE
227th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



MELISA SKINNER
JUDGE
290th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



RON RANGEL
JUDGE
379th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



RAY OLIVARRI
JUDGE
399th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT



LORI I. VALENZUELA
JUDGE
437th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

COURT GOVERNANCE FOUNDATION

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- 12. Appointed counsel may incur investigative or expert expenses without prior approval of the court. On presentation of a claim for reimbursement, the court shall order reimbursement of counsel for the expenses, if the expenses are reasonably necessary and reasonably incurred. Unreasonable expenses will not be approved. When possible, prior court approval should be obtained before incurring expenses for mental health and other experts. Prior court approval is required before incurring expenses for investigation services that exceed \$300 for a SJF or 3°, \$500 for a 2°, \$750 for a 1°, and \$1500 for a Capital. Overhead costs of investigators and experts are included in the fee schedule and may not be additionally claimed on an investigator or expert's voucher or invoice. If an investigator or expert is appointed to one defendant with multiple cases, only one voucher or invoice should be submitted that includes the totality of work performed on all cases.
- 13. On a capital murder case, if an attorney anticipates exceeding 100 hours of out-of-court time, he/she must notify the court when they have reached 100 hours and provide the court with an up-to-date itemization form for the time already spent. On presentation of a claim for payment, the court shall order payment of counsel for all out-of-court time, if the time spent was reasonably necessary and reasonably incurred. Unreasonable claims will not be approved.
- 14. When an appointment is made on an appeal, it is expected that the attorney receiving the appointment and signing the voucher actually did the research and wrote the brief. If another person assisted the attorney of record, the voucher must reflect that person's name, the work performed by that person, and the amount, if any, that person was paid or promised for their services.
- 15. A voucher combining hourly itemizations and flat fees on multiple cases/multiple counts will not be approved. An attorney must submit a voucher based on flat fees alone, or hourly itemizations alone, and no combination of the two is acceptable.
- 16. For multiple pending cases with the same defendant, including indictments, MTRs, informations on waiver pleas, and/or any combination of these, you may either choose to submit one itemized voucher or be paid a flat fee for the highest degree case, whatever the disposition of that case. If you choose to itemize, use the rate applicable to the highest degree case.
- 17. For one indictment with multiple counts, you may either itemize or choose to be paid one flat fee.
- 18. Defense attorneys must submit pay vouchers to the court for experts and court appointed investigators. Investigators and experts may not approach a judge directly for payment. The defense attorney must submit the investigator's pay voucher to the court at the same time as their own pay voucher.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- 19. Attorneys who volunteer to sit second chair on a felony case in order to gain experience will not be paid.
- 20. On all itemized vouchers filed you must use the authorized worksheets for in court and out of court hours. In-court time must be itemized on ¼ of an hour basis, and out-of-court time must be itemized in real time. The "Brief Description of Services" should be specific. Prior court approval is required to exceed 100 hours of out-of court time on capital murder cases and 30 hours of out-of-court time on all other felonies. If the attorney expects to exceed this 100/30 hour cap, he/she should approach the court prior to exceeding the cap with an up-to-date itemization along with a Motion and Order approving hours in excess of the cap.
- 21. Itemized vouchers should be completely, accurately, and sufficiently filled out when submitted.
 - "Offense(s) charged" should accurately reflect the information or indictment
 - "Offense date" should be accurate
 - "Proceeding and Disposition" should be dated and be reasonably specific as to the nature of the disposition. If an attorney withdraws, is substituted out, or an attorney is hired resulting in the removal of the attorney, the date of such action and the name of the new attorney should be listed
 - "Payment Category" should accurately reflect the degree of the offense, or the highest level offense where there are multiple cases.
- 22. If upon indictment a case becomes a higher degree of offense than pre-indictment, and the attorney initially appointed is no longer qualified to take the higher degree of offense, it is the responsibility of the attorney upon indictment to inform the court that he/she is no longer qualified, so the court may appoint a new attorney who is qualified to be appointed on a case of that degree of offense. Any work claimed by the initial attorney after indictment will not be paid.
- 23. Other than in a capital murder case, the only time an interim voucher is acceptable from an attorney continuing as the attorney of record is upon a finding of incompetency.
- 24. An attorney appointed on appeal must seek prior approval from the court to file a Petition for Discretionary Review. If approved, a separate voucher should be filed for the PDR, including a copy of the brief on PDR.
- 25. The attorney named on the appointment must personally appear for a plea and/or sentencing of that case.
- 26. An attorney may not submit a voucher for another attorney's work, or claim appearances that were made by another attorney.

UNIFORM COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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27. If an attorney submits a voucher on a case that is not disposed of, because another attorney was hired or appointed, they can either submit an itemized voucher or request a flat fee of \$200.00.

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