

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY AND APPLICATION

Training Event and Date:
Persuasive Writing Workshop
June 25 - June 27, 2026

Application Submission Deadline: Thursday, May 21, 2026 (5:00 PM EDT)

THIS FORM SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

The Defender Services Office (DSO) has limited funds available for financial assistance for travel and/or lodging to training events for private practitioners under the Criminal Justice Act. No financial assistance will be awarded without an explanation of financial need; applicants are not guaranteed an award. This document includes an application form and post-award information and required actions. You must read this information in its entirety, provide all requested information and certify that the information provided is true and accurate. Applying for financial assistance does not register you for this program. You must submit your registration request separately and should do so before applying for financial assistance. If your registration request **has not** been approved for the program by the financial assistance deadline noted in this document, your application for financial assistance **will not** be considered. Once you have submitted your registration request for the program, you will receive a notice either that you have been accepted or that you have been placed on a wait-list. Regardless of your registration status, you should submit a financial assistance application before the deadline noted below. Please do not make your travel and/or hotel arrangements until you have notification of you financial assistance award status.

Name:

Employer/Firm Name:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

Cell:

Email:

I am a member of the CJA Panel in the District(s) of:

Please provide information for all CJA appointed cases in which you are counsel of record, attaching additional pages if necessary:

Case Number(s):

District(s):

Circuit (s):

Approximately how many CJA cases have you been appointed on in the last five years?

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATION DUE DATE

A completed application is due no later than **5:00 PM (EDT) on Thursday, May 21, 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Please email a completed application by clicking on the **SUBMIT** button at the end of this application and then send the email that will appear on your screen. If an email does not appear on your screen, save this document and send it as an attachment to an email to: Cecilia_Castro@ao.uscourts.gov (1) Click on File and select Print; (2) Under printers, select Adobe PDF; (3) Click on Print -a dialog box will appear prompting you to save the document under a specific name; (4) Name the document as your last name, first initial [e.g. Smith J]; (5) Click on Save; (6) Once the PDF document is saved, exit Adobe, open your email and attach the saved document to an email to: Cecilia_Castro@ao.uscourts.gov. We will make award decisions within 5 working days of the closing date for the receipt of applications. Applicants will be notified of the results shortly thereafter.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

I am requesting that the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts pay some of my travel and/or lodging costs to attend this event. My estimated total household income range is:

\$25,000 \$25-50,000 \$50-100,000 \$100-150,000 \$150,000+

Please provide in the box below a narrative description of financial circumstances or hardships that may demonstrate a need for assistance (e.g., number of children in college, substantial student loans, large medical or other extraordinary expenses, etc.)

Please indicate the type of financial assistance you are seeking. **(Note: If you have already purchased your airfare via your personal credit card, you are not eligible to receive airfare reimbursement. Please select "Lodging Only".):**

Airfare and Lodging

Airfare only

Lodging only

Number of hotel nights needed:

Please indicate any training programs for which you have been awarded financial assistance by DSO within the last three years:

POST-AWARD INFORMATION AND REQUIRED ACTIONS

If we award you financial assistance, you will receive a travel authorization three to four weeks prior to the program for which you are receiving assistance. **It is imperative that you read the authorization carefully to insure that you comply with AOUSC Travel Regulations.** Travel dates must match the dates listed on your travel authorization. If you wish to extend your travel dates, it will be at your own expense.

Lodging Reservations and Cancellation

If your financial assistance includes lodging, you will receive information about the contracted hotel and you are responsible for making your own reservations at that hotel by the published cut-off date. You will be responsible for your travel and own incidentals (i.e., Internet, transportation to/from airport and hotel, parking, etc.).

If you are unable to attend the program, you must contact the hotel to cancel your reservation within the time period established by the hotel's cancellation policy to avoid being charged a no-show fee. Please also notify Cecilia Castro at Cecilia_Castro@ao.uscourts.gov or call 202-502-1319. **Failure to notify DSO may result in you not being considered for future financial assistance awards.**

Transportation

If your financial assistance award includes transportation, the travel authorization will include all information needed to purchase airline or train tickets through National Travel Services (NTS). **Your flight or train reservations must be made through NTS at least two weeks before the seminar. Your fares will be billed to the Defender Services Office through the NTS account.**

Travel arranged must be for round trip travel. One-way tickets are not authorized, and any side trips to a city besides the conference city and your home city will not be permitted.

By placing my name below, I certify that it would be a financial hardship to attend this training event without financial assistance, that the information I have provided is true and accurate.

Name

Date