

PAYMENT GUIDELINES FOR COUNSEL APPOINTED BY THE SUPREME COURT REPRESENTING INDIGENT CRIMINAL APPELLANTS IN CALIFORNIA COURTS

Revised September 19, 1990, and December 22, 1993

**Amended effective September 1, 1995, January 1, 1997,
July 30, 1997, January 22, 1998, February 4, 1998,
January 16, 2002, August 25, 2004, October 1, 2005,
November 30, 2005, July 1, 2006, October 1, 2007,
July 23, 2008, August 27, 2008, March 5, 2012, February 1, 2025, and July 15, 2026**

I. INTRODUCTION

The California Supreme Court determines the compensation of appointed counsel representing indigent criminal appellants. The guidelines set forth below are a general statement of the factors considered by the court in determining appropriate compensation for the time devoted to indigent criminal appeals (and what limited habeas corpus representation remains within the jurisdiction of the California Supreme Court) and the reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by appointed counsel. In reviewing these guidelines, counsel should bear in mind the following:

- A.** Although most of the guidelines apply routinely, the application of others, such as the reimbursement of travel expenses or of the cost of expert witnesses and investigators, depends on the circumstances of each case.
- B.** The rates in the guidelines are subject to periodic change. These include the hourly compensation of appointed counsel, mileage and per diem rates for travel, and rates for the reimbursement of the cost of services by others.
- C.** For the most current information concerning these matters, and the payment guidelines generally, counsel are encouraged to contact the California Appellate Project (CAP). CAP is the appointed counsel administrator that assists private counsel with automatic appeals. CAP's address and telephone number are as follows:

II. REASONABLE COMPENSATION

- A. Compensation rate** The compensation rate for members of the State Bar of California who are appointed as counsel in indigent criminal appeals is the same allowable-hour rate appointed counsel received or was eligible to receive in the Court of Appeal, except for automatic appeals and/or related habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings, for which the rate is \$180 per allowable hour. *[As amended effective Sept. 1, 1995, Jan. 1, 1997, Jan. 22, 1998, Oct. 1, 2005, July 1, 2006, Oct. 1, 2007, and July 15, 2026.]*
- B. “Allowable hours”** The compensation rate is multiplied by the number of “allowable hours” of appellate work to determine a reasonable sum for compensation. Benchmarks for “allowable hours” in capital cases (i.e., an estimate of the time an attorney experienced in the handling of criminal appeals might devote to the various stages of capital litigation) are set out below, in part II, subpart I.3.
- C. Recording of hours** Appointed counsel should record the number of hours devoted to the following phases of appellate work:
1. Record review
 2. Record correction
 3. Motions and applications
 4. Sixty-day status reports
 5. Researching and writing opening brief
 6. Researching and writing reply brief
 7. Researching and writing supplemental brief(s)
 8. Investigating habeas corpus claims incidental to appellate work

9. Oral argument (includes preparation)
10. Post-oral argument representation
11. Rehearing petition or opposition
12. Certiorari petition or opposition (and briefing and argument in the United States Supreme Court after grant of certiorari; see *post*, subpart I.3.(i)) [*As amended effective Aug. 25, 2004.*]
13. Litigation of transferred habeas corpus petitions
14. Habeas corpus related evidentiary hearing
15. Client communication
16. Travel
17. Other specifically identified services

D. Factors considered by the court The following factors are considered by the court in determining the number of allowable hours:

1. Whether the billed hours are within the benchmarks, or whether there exists good cause to depart from the benchmarks.
2. Length of the record.
3. Complexity and novelty of the legal issues.
4. Quality of work.

E. Exceptional procedural matters Counsel should provide the court with an explanation of the time spent on exceptional procedural matters, such as repeated applications for augmentation of the record on appeal.

F. Travel time Travel time will be compensated to the extent that the time could not reasonably be spent working on the case.

G. Circumstances warranting additional compensation If counsel believes there exist extraordinary circumstances that justify compensation beyond that set out in these guidelines, counsel should bring such factors to the attention of the court at the time a claim for payment of compensation and expenses is presented. Counsel's showing of

justification should be commensurate with the extent to which he or she seeks to exceed the benchmarks.

- H. Submission of payment requests** Counsel must submit a request for payment of compensation and expenses every 90 days. Failure to submit timely payment requests may lead to delay in processing.

For work performed before June 30, 2029 in pursuit of a claim under the Racial Justice Act (RJA), Penal Code section 745, requests for payment should be submitted no later than the end of the month following the one in which work was performed. For example, for work performed in January 2025, a payment request should be submitted no later than February 28, 2025. *[As amended effective July 1, 2026.]*

- I. Special rules for capital cases** The following rules apply to capital cases only:

1. *Delay in certification of record or filing of brief* If delay in the certification of the record on appeal or in the filing of the appellant's opening brief (AOB) is due to a lack of diligence on the part of appointed counsel, payment of compensation will be deferred until the record is certified or the AOB is filed.
2. *Forms and reports* Counsel must submit a cumulative hours compensation form and the most recent status report with every request for payment. The cumulative hours compensation form will be provided by the court or may be obtained from CAP. Counsel should retain a copy of each cumulative hours compensation form submitted. These forms will facilitate completion of the data form for automatic appeals, which must accompany the request for final payment for services rendered in this court. Note that although a request for payment must be submitted every 90 days, a current status report must be submitted every 60 days until the filing of appellant's opening brief.
3. *"Allowable hours" benchmarks* The court, after consultation with representatives of a cross-section of the criminal justice bar, has established the following benchmarks for the various stages of capital representation: *[As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998, Feb. 4, 1998, Aug. 25, 2004, Nov. 30, 2005, and Mar. 5, 2012.]*

(i) APPEAL

Reading the record and producing detailed, understandable, and computerized transcript notes: 40 pp./hr.

Record correction: 20-120 hrs.

Client communication: 15-30 hrs.

Appellant's opening brief (AOB): 260-600 hrs.

Appellant's reply brief (ARB): 55-160 hrs.

Oral argument: 40-80 hrs.

Supplemental briefs: 20-80 hrs.

Rehearing petition: 25-75 hrs.

Certiorari petition: 40-75 hrs.

Briefing and argument in the United States Supreme Court after grant of certiorari: Counsel shall seek compensation for such services from the United States Supreme Court. Should that court deny compensation for such services, this court will authorize reasonable compensation for such services up to a maximum of \$7,440. [As amended Aug. 25, 2004 and July 15, 2026.]

- (ii) HABEAS CORPUS Following enactment of Proposition 66, the "Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016," these benchmarks apply to habeas corpus petitions that were pending before the Supreme Court of California before its October 25, 2017 effective date, and either remain pending before this court or were transferred to the superior court and this court expressly retained jurisdiction over appointment and payment of counsel in its transfer order. *[As amended Feb. 1, 2025.]*

a. Investigation and Presentation of Petition

For cases in which appellate counsel also handles habeas corpus responsibilities:

Client communication related to habeas corpus investigation: Up to 60 hours, as follows: Up to 30 hrs. in the first year after appointment; and up to 15 hrs. per year thereafter.

Investigate and present habeas corpus petition: 140-400 hrs.

For cases in which separate appointed counsel handles habeas corpus responsibilities:

Client communication related to habeas corpus investigation: Up to 70 hours, as follows: Up to 40 hrs. in the first year after appointment; and up to 15 hrs. per year thereafter.

Record review: 50 pp./hr. [As amended Nov. 30, 2005.]

Investigate and present habeas corpus petition: 180-500 hrs.

For all cases:

Informal reply: 50-120 hrs.

Traverse: 50-120 hrs.

b. Habeas Corpus Evidentiary Hearing *[As amended Mar. 5, 2012.]*

Preparation: 150-600 hrs.

Evidentiary hearing: 72-144 hrs. (i.e., 3-6 days)

Post-hearing litigation before the referee: 75-125 hrs.

These benchmarks apply collectively to all counsel, appointed and supervised, who are engaged in work related to a habeas corpus evidentiary hearing, and are not multiplied, or otherwise increased, by virtue of the fact that more than one attorney is participating in this work.

c. Post-Hearing Briefs in the Supreme Court

Brief on the merits, response brief, and any supplemental brief: 50-150 hrs.

d. Habeas Corpus Proceedings Returnable in Superior Court Following Order to Show Cause on Alleged Intellectual Disability of Condemned Inmate *[As adopted Mar. 5, 2012, and amended Feb. 1, 2025.]*

The “allowable hours” benchmark ranges for habeas corpus proceedings after issuance of an order to show cause, including any traverse to the return, and preparation for, or presentation at, an evidentiary hearing, as set forth in Payment Guideline II, subpart I.3.(ii), apply to all habeas corpus proceedings following an order to show cause regarding a condemned inmate’s alleged intellectual disability and resulting ineligibility for the death penalty within the meaning of *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002) 536 U.S. 304.

Before requesting compensation from the Supreme Court for attorney fees related to such *Atkins* litigation in superior court, appointed counsel first must obtain the superior court’s recommendation for payment of the incurred hours. However, the superior court’s recommendation is not

binding on the Supreme Court, which will, in all cases, exercise independent review concerning attorney fees recommended for payment by the superior court.

- (iii) “*Allowable hours*” benchmarks related to the Racial Justice Act The court, after consideration of the benchmarks set forth in these Guidelines and work performed to date in pursuit of claims raised under the Racial Justice Act, has established the following benchmarks for the various stages of capital RJA-related representation. *[As adopted Feb. 1, 2025 and amended July 15, 2026.]*

a. Appeal

Effective until June 30, 2029:

Claims in opening/reply brief: 40-80 hours

Supplemental brief(s): 40-80 hours

After June 30, 2029:

No benchmark for preparation of an RJA claim in an opening brief or supplemental brief shall be set forth separately from the general allowable hours benchmarks for the opening brief and supplemental brief set forth under section (i), *ante*.

- b. Habeas Corpus [This provision is effective until June 30, 2029, after which no benchmark for the following tasks shall be set forth separately from the general allowable hours benchmarks for habeas corpus work set forth under section (ii), *infra*.]

Investigation and Petition

Client communication related to RJA investigation: Up to 15 hrs. per year.

RJA-related Record review: 100 pp./hr.

RJA-related investigation and presentation of habeas corpus petition: 80-160 hrs.

Informal reply: 50-120 hrs.

Traverse: 50-120 hrs.

RJA-Related Habeas Corpus Evidentiary Hearing

Preparation: 80-200 hrs.

Evidentiary hearing: 48-120 hrs. (i.e., 2–5 days)

Post-hearing litigation before the referee: 50-100 hrs.

These benchmarks apply collectively to all counsel, appointed and supervised, who are engaged in work related to a habeas corpus evidentiary hearing, and are not multiplied, or otherwise increased, by virtue of the fact that more than one attorney is participating in this work.

Post-Hearing Briefs

Brief on the merits, response brief, and any supplemental brief: 25-72 hrs.

Before requesting compensation from the Supreme Court for attorney fees related to such RJA litigation in superior court, appointed counsel first must obtain the superior court's recommendation for payment of the incurred hours. However, the superior court's recommendation is not binding on the Supreme Court, which will, in all cases, exercise independent review concerning attorney fees recommended for payment by the superior court.

(iv) EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY [*As amended Feb. 1, 2025.*]

In the absence of a moratorium on the death penalty, representation in executive clemency proceedings before the Governor of California: 40-80 hrs.

These benchmarks are guidelines for the expected hours in “typical” cases, and are neither ceilings nor floors for fees in any given case. The court will continue to monitor its fee payment data to determine whether adjustment of the benchmarks is warranted in the future. Counsel is advised to review the benchmarks carefully,

and to bear the following in mind throughout the course of representation (i.e., at each “stage” of the litigation):

a. The “lower range” of the benchmarks

A capital matter that has a relatively short record (i.e., 3,000-6,000 pages), and that raises standard (albeit fact-specific) issues already resolved in prior cases, should generally produce hours near or below the “lower range” of the benchmarks. Based on experience, the court expects a substantial percentage of cases to be completed under the lower range of the benchmarks.

Counsel should determine at an early stage of representation whether the case meets the description of a “lower range” case. If counsel has such a case, and submits a fee request substantially exceeding the lower range of the benchmarks for any particular stage of the litigation, he or she must include in each request a detailed explanation of why fees exceeding the lower range of the benchmarks should be awarded. The court will award fees substantially exceeding the appropriate benchmark range only if it is convinced that on the facts of the case, such fees are warranted.

b. The “upper range” of the benchmarks

Based on experience, the court anticipates a number of capital matters will produce fee hours at or near the upper range of the benchmarks, and occasionally, over that range. The following important caveats apply in such cases:

The upper range of the benchmarks is generally reserved for those cases with relatively long records (i.e., 10,000 or more pages), *and* that raise novel or difficult issues. The mere fact that the record may be long does *not* indicate that “upper range” or “over-benchmark” hours will be appropriate in any or each stage of the litigation.

If a case does not meet the above description of an “upper range” or “over-benchmark” case, counsel should not expect to receive “upper range” or “over-benchmark” fees. In order to secure such fees in a case not otherwise meeting the above description, counsel must include in the request a detailed explanation of why the fees requested should be awarded. The court will award fees near or exceeding the appropriate benchmark range only if it is convinced that on the facts of the case, such fees are warranted.

4. *Second counsel “override”* In cases in which appointed counsel deems it necessary to associate with second counsel, and the court approves the

association, the court may in its discretion, and on a showing of good cause, approve compensation to appointed counsel for hours incurred exceeding the benchmarks by 5-15 percent. As a general rule the court will allow the full 15 percent override in cases in which counsel divides the hours fairly evenly for the stage for which fees are sought. If counsel divides the work less evenly, the override will be diminished accordingly. The court will continue to monitor the cases to determine whether the 15 percent ceiling should be increased.

III. NECESSARY EXPENSES

- A. Items not qualifying as expenses** The hourly fee should cover all overhead related to a case, *including administrative assistant services, document processing, and the like*. Expenses listed below will be reimbursed to the extent they are itemized, reasonable, and necessarily incurred during the course of the appeal, and otherwise comply with the court's procedures (see below, part III.B). Note that these guidelines apply not only to appointed counsel, but to those persons, including experts and investigators, who assist appointed counsel with the appeal.
- B. Prior approval** Prior approval is required for extraordinary expenses, such as for out-of-state travel, expert witnesses and investigators. *In capital cases*, expense requests are governed by Policy 3 of the Supreme Court Policies Regarding Cases Arising from Judgments of Death (Supreme Court Policies).
- C. Reimbursable expenses** In general, when making a request for reimbursement, counsel must itemize *all* expenses, and must provide in the request the original receipts for the following: (i) travel expenses (airfare, car rental, hotel bills, etc.) over \$47 per day; (ii) telephone and copying expenses over \$50 and \$100 per month, respectively (see below); and (iii) all other single transactions that exceed \$100. Counsel should keep all receipts in the event documentation is later required.
1. *Photocopying* The cost of photocopying will be reimbursed, at not more than 10 cents per page, whether the copying is done inside or outside counsel's office. If counsel represents that photocopying was billed at 10 cents per page or less, receipts will not be required unless the expenses are in excess of \$100 per month. *[As amended effective Jan. 16, 2002 and Feb. 1, 2025.]*
 2. *Postage and delivery costs* Expenses for express mail/messenger service will be reimbursed only on a showing that use of express mail/messenger service was necessary and reasonable.
 3. *Telephone charges* Receipts will not be required unless the expenses are in excess of \$50 per month.

4. *Travel expenses [Effective July 1, 2006, amended July 15, 2026.]*
 - a. The court will determine the reasonableness and necessity of travel expenses on a case-by-case basis. Counsel are cautioned that travel expenses are not reasonable if they can be accomplished in another way, such as by telephone or correspondence. Further, counsel should use the least expensive alternative means of travel. For motor vehicles, the mileage rate is the prevailing amount established by the Judicial Council of California.
 - b. When travel is required by appointed counsel or a person authorized to assist appointed counsel, reasonable and necessary meals and lodging may be claimed, to the extent allowed under State Board of Control rules. Counsel should contact CAP for further information.
 - c. Some of the lesser known provisions of the Board of Control rules are as follows:
 - (1) The per diem allowance does not apply for trips of 25 miles or less.
 - (2) Lunch is not covered unless the travel period is 24 hours or more.
 - (3) The cost of collision coverage in a contract for a rental car is not covered.
5. *Computerized legal research* The reasonable cost of computerized legal research (as opposed to the costs of installation and monthly access fees), when the use is specifically attributable to the case, will be reimbursed to the extent reasonably and necessarily incurred. Written explanations concerning the specific nature of the computer expenses will not be required unless the expenses are in excess of \$50 per month. *[As amended effective Feb. 1, 2025.]*
6. *Services of law clerks, paralegals, and State Bar members [As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998.]*
 - a. Counsel shall be reimbursed for the compensation of the following individuals at a rate not to exceed the following:
 - (1) Law clerks who are not members of the State Bar of California at \$40 per allowable hour.
 - (2) Paralegals at \$40 per allowable hour.

(3) Members of the State Bar of California, who are not appointed to the case, at the rate of \$98 per allowable hour.

- b. Reimbursement of the compensation for all persons performing legal services, other than appointed counsel, shall be subject to the following conditions:

(1) In submitting a claim for reimbursement, counsel shall describe with specificity the legal services and number of hours of work performed by each other person so the court can evaluate the reasonableness of the services and expenses as part of appointed counsel's overall claim. *It is expected that the hours devoted to legal services by nonappointed counsel, and any "exceptionally high" hours attributed to law clerks and paralegals (i.e., hours exceeding 30 percent of the benchmark hours for appointed counsel for any given stage), will reduce the hours that appointed counsel will devote to those services.*

(2) Appointed counsel shall not delegate to others those functions that require the ability and experience for which counsel was appointed.

(3) Appointed counsel shall supervise and have full responsibility for the services performed by others.

7. *Services of investigators and experts [As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998, and July 23, 2008.]*

- a. An investigator or expert shall be compensated at a rate not to exceed the maximum rates listed below. Counsel must establish that use of an expert's services is reasonably necessary under the facts of the case. Counsel seeking to use the services of multiple experts relating to a single or common issue must demonstrate a compelling necessity for such use of multiple experts. In addition, counsel must include in the request for reimbursement a representation that the rate requested:

- (1) does not exceed the investigator's or expert's customary rates for the services performed, and
- (2) does not exceed local prevailing rates for the services performed.

- b. The maximum rates are as follows

- (1) Investigators, \$55-90 per hour

- (2) Penalty phase consultants, \$60-125 per hour
 - (3) Psychiatrists and other medically licensed mental health experts, \$200-350 per hour
 - (4) Other forensic experts, \$125-225 per hour
 - (5) Psychologists (Ph.D.'s), \$150-275 per hour
 - (6) Attorneys serving as experts, up to \$180 per hour. (*Note:* Until an order to show cause is issued, *or* the People submit an expert declaration in their informal opposition to a habeas corpus petition, the court will not approve payment for attorney “expert opinion” in the form of declarations, etc.)
 - (7) Any expert listed above testifying at a court proceeding, eight times the hourly rate per day or four times the hourly rate per half day.
- b. In exceptional circumstances, when the need for services at a greater rate of compensation is documented and prior authorization is obtained from the Supreme Court, compensation beyond the maximum may be paid.

In those remaining proceedings pending in superior court pursuant to an order to show cause issued by the California Supreme Court, and returnable before the superior court, regarding a condemned inmate’s alleged intellectual disability and resulting ineligibility for the death penalty within the meaning of *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002) 536 U.S. 304 (see also *In re Hawthorne* (2005) 35 Cal.4th 40), the following practices apply to requests by counsel appointed in the California Supreme Court for the reimbursement of investigation services and expenses incurred in superior court for experts, investigators and law clerks/paralegals:

- (1) The superior court in which the *Atkins*-related proceedings are pending makes only a *recommendation* for pre-authorization to incur, and payment of, the expenses of investigators, experts, and other service providers for whom reimbursement is sought by appointed counsel. Thereafter, the Supreme Court independently determines, pursuant to its time-and-costs Payment Guidelines and the Policy 3 compensation standards (see Supreme Court Policies), whether the recommended funding is reasonable and, to the extent found reasonable, authorizes appointed counsel to incur such expenses and reimburses appointed counsel, as appropriate.
- (2) Appointed counsel may engage experts, investigators, and law clerks/paralegals either in the locality where counsel’s offices are situated or in the locality where the superior court proceedings are

being held, at counsel's option.

- (3) The California Supreme Court will pay for investigation services and expenses at the rate prevailing where the services are engaged, if otherwise permissible within the maximum hourly rates and other applicable provisions set forth within these payment guidelines.

IV. FEE AND EXPENSE DISALLOWANCES

The court will provide reasons in writing for fee disallowances of \$1,000 or more, and expense disallowances of \$500 or more.

V. COURT ACTION UPON NONPERFORMANCE OF WORK, AND REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES UPON AUTHORIZED WITHDRAWAL OF APPOINTED COUNSEL

[Guideline adopted effective July 30, 1997.]

- A. Nonperformance of counsel** In the rare circumstance in which appointed counsel ceases work on a case and refuses to complete the work with reasonable diligence, the court has had, and will continue to exercise as appropriate, the following nonexclusive options: The court may enforce its legal rights; the court may refer the matter to the State Bar; and finally, the court may institute contempt proceedings to enforce its orders.
- B. Authorized withdrawal of counsel** In the event that the court permits appointed counsel to withdraw before completion of counsel's duties in a case, the court will, as appropriate under the circumstances, authorize payment to counsel for legal work completed. Alternatively, the court may, as appropriate under the circumstances, order counsel to reimburse the court for fees paid, less a credit for work performed that is determined by the court to be of value to the court.

**GUIDELINES FOR FIXED FEE APPOINTMENTS,
ON OPTIONAL BASIS, TO AUTOMATIC APPEALS AND
CAPITAL HABEAS CORPUS PROCEEDINGS
IN CALIFORNIA COURTS**

Adopted by the Supreme Court December 14, 1993, effective January 1, 1994

**Amended effective September 1, 1995,
January 1, 1997, January 22, 1997, July 30, 1997, January 22, 1998,
February 4, 1998, July 18, 2001, January 16, 2002,
March 21, 2002, October 1, 2005, November 30, 2005, July 1, 2006,
October 1, 2007, January 1, 2008, March 5, 2012,
February 1, 2025, and July 15, 2026**

Introduction

Presently, appointed counsel in automatic appeals are compensated on a “time and costs” basis, under the Payment Guidelines for Appointed Counsel Representing Indigent Criminal Appellants in the California Supreme Court (as revised) (hereafter Payment Guidelines). Under the Payment Guidelines, appointed counsel must submit a detailed and lengthy cumulative hours compensation form with every request for payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses. Moreover, “allowable hours” benchmarks limit the fees available for each stage of the capital representation; other provisions limit or exclude reimbursement for expenses. Requests for prior approval of extraordinary expenses are governed by the Supreme Court Policies Regarding Cases Arising From Judgments of Death (as revised).

In an effort to provide appointed counsel in capital cases greater predictability, consistency and control over compensation and expenses, and to reduce administrative burdens on both counsel and the Court, the Court has adopted an optional fixed fee and expenses payment system.

The categories of fixed fees set out below in Guidelines 1, 1.1, and 1.2 establish the compensation and responsibilities of appointed counsel for all services and “incidental expenses” (habeas corpus investigation expenses are separately provided for in Guideline 2):

- (1) In cases in which counsel was appointed to represent the defendant both on appeal and in related habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings, and a habeas corpus petition was filed in the California Supreme Court and transferred to a superior court after October 25, 2017, fixed fee compensation is for: (a) the direct appeal, through the filing of a certiorari petition to the United States Supreme Court, or an answer thereto (but not including any briefs or appearances in the United States Supreme Court after grant of

certiorari or any briefs or appearances on remand to the California Supreme Court, which work would be compensated under the terms and limitations of the Payment Guidelines); (b) absent a moratorium on the death penalty, any superior court proceedings under Penal Code sections 1193 and 1227 to set an execution date; and (c) representation in executive clemency proceedings before the Governor of California. (See Supreme Court Policies, *supra*, Policies 2 and 3.)

- (2) In cases in which counsel is appointed to represent the defendant on appeal only, fixed fee compensation is for: (a) the direct appeal, through the filing of a certiorari petition to the United States Supreme Court, or an answer thereto (but not including any briefs or appearances in the United States Supreme Court after grant of certiorari or any briefs or appearances on remand to the California Supreme Court, which work would be compensated under the terms and limitations of the Payment Guidelines); and (b) any superior court proceedings under Penal Code section 1193 to set an execution date. (See Supreme Court Policies, *supra*, Policies 2 and 3.)
- (3) In cases in which counsel was appointed to represent the defendant in habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings only, and a habeas corpus petition filed in the California Supreme Court was transferred to a superior court after October 25, 2017, fixed fee compensation is for: (a) state habeas corpus litigation before the superior court, including any habeas corpus evidentiary hearing or post-hearing briefs in the superior court, which work would be compensated under the terms and limitations of the Payment Guidelines; and absent a moratorium on the death penalty, (b) any superior court proceedings under Penal Code section 1227 to set an execution date; and (c) representation in executive clemency proceedings before the Governor of California. (See Supreme Court Policies, *supra*, Policies 2 and 3.) *[Adopted effective Jan. 1, 1994; as amended effective Sept. 1, 1995, Jan. 22, 1998, Feb. 4, 1998, and Feb. 1, 2025.]*

Factors Affecting Fee Categories

[Guideline added effective Nov. 30, 2005.]

The California Supreme Court considers four factors in determining the fee in fixed fee appointments in capital proceedings: *complexity*, *difficulty*, *extraordinary costs*, and *time-intensiveness*. The case-specific issues that influence the applicability of these factors often overlap, but examples of such issues include the following:

- Multiple defendants
- Motion for change of venue

- Joint or separate trials with co-defendants
- Multiple homicides or multiple incidents (including multiple victims in separate incidents)
- Mistrials and re-trial(s)
- Substitution of trial counsel; additional trial proceedings or phases (e.g., grand jury, competency phase, sanity phase)
- Multiple special circumstances
- Prior convictions or unadjudicated criminal conduct admitted at penalty phase
- Prosecution's use of informants
- Extensive litigation of the admissibility of evidence
- Forensic testing, analysis, and evidence (e.g., DNA, hair, fingerprint, blood, ballistics) introduced at trial or necessary for habeas investigation
- Mentally ill, mentally impaired, or mentally retarded capital defendants
- Non-English-speaking or foreign national capital defendant
- Non-English-speaking witnesses
- Minimal guilt and/or penalty phase investigation done for trial
- Investigation requirements in multiple locations and/or out of the state or country
- Extended elapsed time since offenses/trial
- Necessity of expert witnesses
- Necessity of using some fees to cover investigative and incidental expenses
- Length of record
- Number of trial witnesses

**1. Fixed Fee Categories
for Cases in Which Counsel Was Appointed
to Handle the Appeal and Related
Habeas Corpus/Executive Clemency Proceedings Prior to October 25, 2017**

*[As amended effective Sept. 1, 1995, Jan. 1, 1997, Jan. 22, 1998,
Oct. 1, 2005, July 1, 2006, Oct. 1, 2007, Feb. 1, 2025,
July 1, 2025, and July 15, 2026.]*

Category I: \$198,570

- B. An appeal from a judgment based on a guilty plea and penalty phase; or
- C. An appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal limited to penalty.
- D. Caveat: An appeal from a judgment on limited remand for a new hearing on

the automatic motion to modify the death verdict (Pen. Code, § 190.4, subd. (e)) likely will be valued well below \$198,570. (See also Guideline 4 [Case Evaluation], *post.*)

Category II: \$286,687

A. An appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal limited to the special circumstance finding(s) and penalty; or

B. An appeal otherwise in category I(A) or I(B) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 4,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants; or

C. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is under 6,000 pages.

Category III: \$351,222

A. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is between 6,000 and 12,000 pages; or

B. An appeal otherwise in category II(A) or II(C) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 5,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants.

Category IV: \$399,624

A. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is 12,000 or more pages; or

B. An appeal otherwise in category III(A) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 10,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants.

Category V: \$456,713 base fee

Exceptional cases that occur infrequently, involve many victims and incidents, and have a combined record on appeal of 25,000 or more pages. In this category, appointed counsel may present a justification at the outset for a fixed fee higher than the base fee.

**1.1. Fixed Fee Categories
for Cases in Which Counsel Is Appointed
to Handle the Appeal Only, or Fixed Fee Cases in Which Counsel Is Appointed to
Replace Prior Counsel Appointed to Handle the Appeal and Related Habeas
Corpus/Executive Clemency**

*[Guideline added effective Jan. 22, 1998; as amended Oct. 1, 2005,
July 1, 2006, Oct. 1, 2007, Feb. 1, 2025, July 1, 2025, and July 15, 2026.]*

Category I: \$80,670

- A. An appeal from a judgment based on a guilty plea and penalty phase; or
- B. An appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal limited to penalty.
- C. Caveat: An appeal from a judgment on limited remand for a new hearing on the automatic motion to modify the death verdict (Pen. Code, § 190.4, subd. (e)) likely will be valued well below \$80,670. (See also Guideline 4 [Case Evaluation], *post*.)

Category II: \$168,786

- A. An appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal limited to the special circumstance finding(s) and penalty; or
- B. An appeal otherwise in category I(A) or I(B) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 4,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants; or
- C. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is under 6,000 pages.

Category III: \$220,910

A. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is between 6,000 and 12,000 pages; or

B. An appeal otherwise in category II(A) or II(C) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 5,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants.

Category IV: \$271,794

A. An initial appeal or an appeal from a judgment on remand following a reversal of guilt, in which the combined record on appeal is 12,000 or more pages; or

B. An appeal otherwise in category III(A) that presents a more complex case, in the Court's view, by reason of, but not limited to, one or more of the following factors: The combined record on appeal is 10,000 or more pages; there was more than one homicide victim, and the homicides occurred in more than one incident; there were numerous pretrial and/or penalty phase motions; there were multiple defendants and/or appellants.

Category V: \$326,401

Exceptional cases that occur infrequently, involve many victims and incidents, and have a combined record on appeal of 25,000 or more pages. In this category, appointed counsel may present a justification at the outset for a fixed fee higher than the base fee.

**1.2. Fixed Fee Categories
for Cases in Which Counsel Is Appointed to Handle
Habeas Corpus/Executive Clemency Proceedings Only**

*[Guideline added effective Jan. 22, 1998;
as amended Oct. 1, 2005, Nov. 30, 2005, July 1, 2006,
Oct. 1, 2007, Feb. 1, 2025, July 1, 2025, and July 15, 2026.]*

Category I: \$55,484, plus an additional fixed fee calculated at the rate of \$180 for every 50 pages of transcript in the combined record on appeal, not to exceed \$50,000. Habeas corpus representation in which counsel is appointed by this court after the October 25, 2017 effective date of Proposition 66, the "Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016," Pen. Code, § 1509, *et seq.*, to replace counsel previously appointed by this court.

Category II: \$105,492, plus an additional fixed fee calculated at the rate of \$180 for every 50 pages of transcript in the combined record on appeal.

A. Habeas corpus representation related to a case that would fall within Fixed Fee Guideline 1.1, Categories I or II.

B. Habeas corpus representation related to a case that would fall within Fixed Fee Guideline 1.1, Categories III, IV, or V, but that, for case-specific reasons, is of below-average complexity.

Category III: \$136,517, plus an additional fixed fee calculated at the rate of \$180 for every 50 pages of transcript in the combined record on appeal.

A. Habeas corpus representation related to a case that would fall within Fixed Fee Guideline 1.1, Categories III, IV, or V.

B. Habeas corpus representation related to a case that would fall within Fixed Fee Guideline 1.1, Categories I or II, but that, for case-specific reasons, nevertheless is of average complexity.

Category IV: \$157,616, plus an additional fixed fee calculated at the rate of \$180 for every 50 pages of transcript in the combined record on appeal, for cases of above-average complexity.

For cases of exceptional complexity, appointed counsel may present a justification at the outset for a fixed fee higher than the \$157,616 base fee.

1.3. Suggested Format and Contents of Fixed Fee Requests

[Guideline added effective Nov. 30, 2005.]

Counsel may submit requests for consideration of a case for a particular fixed fee category. Lengthy letters are not necessary or encouraged. Letters for the most complex cases should not exceed seven pages. A suggested format that will assist the Court in making a fixed fee determination includes the following elements:

Fixed fee request: An opening paragraph stating the fee category and base fee requested, plus additional amounts sought for transcript length and cases of exceptional complexity.

Short summary of the case: This paragraph should not extensively reiterate the facts of the case or the procedural history.

Discussion of the applicability of the four factors to this particular case: An explanation of why the appointed case is particularly complex, difficult, costly, and/or time-intensive.

2. Incidental and Investigative Expenses

*[As amended effective Sept. 1, 1995, Jan. 22, 1998,
Jan. 1, 2008, and Feb. 1, 2025.]*

All incidental expenses for the direct appeal and habeas corpus/executive clemency representation are included in the fixed fee. Incidental expenses include photocopying, postage, telephone charges, internet expenses, computerized legal research, travel (other than for habeas corpus investigation) and services of law clerks and paralegals (other than for habeas corpus investigation). Absent a finding of good cause, the Court will not authorize or reimburse habeas corpus investigative expenses prior to the issuance of an order to show cause.

3. Requests for Additional Fees

[As amended effective Feb. 1, 2025 and July 15, 2026.]

In extraordinary and unique situations, the Court will entertain requests for additional fees based on exceptional circumstances (e.g., circumstances that were unforeseeable at the time of the appointment of counsel on a fixed fee basis). In such situations, counsel shall have the burden of proof to justify any additional fees.

4. Case Evaluation

[As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998.]

There will be agreement on the fixed fee prior to the appointment of counsel. (See also, Guideline 6 [Conversion From Time and Costs Appointment to Fixed Fee], *post.*)

Initially, applicant counsel selected to consider an appointment to a specific automatic appeal and/or habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings will have the option of investigating that case for purposes of proposing a fixed fee pursuant to these alternative guidelines, rather than the traditional time and costs method. At any given time, there will be only one set of applicant counsel investigating a specific automatic appeal and/or habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings for purposes of a possible appointment. Applicant counsel are encouraged to consult with trial counsel, examine any available transcript “dailies” prepared during the trial or other proceedings, and examine any available materials normally found in the clerk’s transcript. Counsel are also encouraged to examine additional materials and information that may be available from the California Appellate Project in San Francisco.

Using these alternative guidelines, applicant counsel opting to be appointed on a fixed fee basis will propose a category and hence a fee for all services and expenses in the case. The Court’s concurrence is required for any such appointment.

Discussions with applicant counsel regarding proposals for fixed fee appointments shall be conducted through the Capital Appointments Coordinator.

The fixed fee encompasses counsel’s investigative costs in reviewing the case for purposes of considering an appointment. If counsel’s proposal for a fixed fee is not accepted by the Court, counsel will not be reimbursed for those investigative costs; however, counsel may request an appointment to that case pursuant to the traditional time and costs method of the Payment Guidelines.

5. Progress Payments

[As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998, Feb. 4, 1998, Mar. 21, 2002, and Feb. 1, 2025.]

Until appointed appellate counsel files the appellant’s opening brief, a current status report must be filed every 60 days. Other than reimbursement for habeas corpus investigative expenses, documentation and itemization of hours and expenses by appointed counsel are not required under these alternative fixed fee guidelines.

Counsel appointed for both the direct appeal *and* habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings, where the appointment was made prior to the October 25, 2017, will receive progress payments after specified stages of representation as follows: (i) one-sixth of the fixed amount shortly after counsel is appointed; (ii) one-sixth after counsel (a) submits to the assisting entity or counsel (e.g., the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, the California Appellate Project, or other assisting counsel) detailed, understandable and computerized transcript notes, a list of potentially meritorious habeas corpus issues, and a draft first request for correction of the record (and, if appropriate, any motion for augmentation and/or settled statement), and (b) files this first request; (iii) one-sixth after

certification of the record and filing of the record in this court (one-half of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after the superior court's order disposing of the consolidated motion to augment, correct, and settle the record on appeal); (iv) one-sixth after counsel (a) files a confidential declaration that he or she has made reasonable efforts to consult with defendant and trial counsel about potential habeas corpus issues, (b) submits to the assisting entity or counsel a detailed outline of potential habeas corpus issues to be investigated, and (c) files the appellant's opening brief (one-quarter of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after counsel's submission to the assisting entity or counsel of a complete draft of the statement of the case and statement of the facts portion of the appellant's opening brief; one-quarter after submission of a complete draft of the guilt phase and special circumstance issues portion of the appellant's opening brief; and one-quarter after submission of a complete draft of the penalty phase issues portion of the appellant's opening brief [counsel may request these advances before progress payment (iii) has been paid in full]); (v) one-sixth after counsel (a) submits to the assisting entity or counsel a draft reply brief, (b) files a reply brief, and (c) files a confidential declaration that counsel has substantially completed the habeas corpus investigation (to the extent possible given funding provided therefor), and has submitted for review to the assisting entity or counsel a draft habeas corpus petition with necessary exhibits and declarations (or, in the alternative, that counsel has submitted for review to the assisting entity or counsel a draft declaration indicating that all potential leads have been substantially pursued to the extent possible given funding provided therefor, and that it appears that no habeas corpus petition will be filed) (one-half of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after the following: (a) the Attorney General files the respondent's brief, and (b) counsel files a confidential declaration that counsel has completed approximately one-half of the anticipated habeas corpus investigation, and has submitted to the assisting entity or counsel a detailed outline of the remainder of the planned investigation); (vi) one-sixth, less \$10,000, after counsel files a habeas corpus petition in this court on behalf of counsel's client, and after oral argument and submission of the matter on the direct appeal (except that if counsel files no petition, counsel must instead file a confidential declaration indicating that all potential leads have been pursued to the extent possible given funding provided therefor, and that no habeas corpus petition will be filed, after which counsel will receive no sixth progress payment, except upon a showing that in view of work performed, full or partial payment is warranted); and finally (vii) in the absence of a moratorium on the death penalty, the sum of \$10,000 after completion of representation in executive clemency proceedings before the Governor of California. With each request for payment except for those set forth above in (i), (vi), and (vii), counsel shall provide to the court a statement from the assisting entity or counsel that counsel's submission to the entity or counsel substantially complies with the conditions set forth for payment.

Counsel appointed for the direct appeal only will receive progress payments after specified stages of representation as follows: (i) one-sixth of the fixed amount shortly after counsel is appointed; (ii) one-sixth after counsel (a) submits to the assisting entity or

counsel (e.g., the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, the California Appellate Project, or other assisting counsel) detailed and understandable digitized or electronic transcript notes including a list of potentially meritorious habeas corpus issues, and a draft first request for correction of the record (and, if appropriate, any motion for augmentation and/or settled statement), and (b) files this first request; (iii) one-sixth after certification of the record and filing of the record in this court (one-half of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after the superior court's order disposing of the consolidated motion to augment, correct, and settle the record on appeal); (iv) one-sixth after counsel files the appellant's opening brief (one-quarter of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after counsel's submission to the assisting entity or counsel of a complete draft of the statement of the case and statement of the facts portion of the appellant's opening brief; one-quarter after submission of a complete draft of the guilt phase and special circumstance issues portion of the appellant's opening brief; and one-quarter after submission of a complete draft of the penalty phase issues portion of the appellant's opening brief [counsel may request these advances before progress payment (iii) has been paid in full]); (v) one-sixth after counsel (a) submits to the assisting entity or counsel a draft of the appellant's reply brief, and (b) files the reply brief; and (vi) one-sixth after oral argument and submission of the matter on the direct appeal. With each request for payment except for those set forth above in (i) and (vi), counsel shall provide to the court a statement from the assisting entity or counsel that counsel's submission to the entity or counsel substantially complies with the conditions set forth for payment.

Counsel appointed prior to October 25, 2017, or counsel appointed to replace such counsel, whose appointment is limited to habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings will receive progress payments after specified stages of representation as follows: (i) one-fifth of the fixed amount shortly after counsel is appointed; (ii) one-fifth after counsel files a confidential declaration that counsel has reviewed the record on appeal and the detailed transcript notes and list of potentially meritorious habeas corpus issues provided by appointed counsel on the direct appeal, has made reasonable efforts to consult with defendant, appellate counsel and trial counsel, and has submitted to the assisting entity or counsel (e.g., the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, the California Appellate Project, or other assisting counsel) a detailed outline of potential habeas corpus issues to be investigated; (iii) one-fifth after counsel files a confidential declaration that counsel has completed approximately one-half of the anticipated habeas corpus investigation, and has submitted to the assisting entity or counsel a detailed outline of the remainder of the planned investigation; (iv) one-fifth after counsel files a confidential declaration that counsel has submitted for review to the assisting entity or counsel a draft habeas corpus petition with necessary exhibits and declarations (or, in the alternative, that counsel has submitted for review to the assisting entity or counsel a draft declaration indicating that all potential leads have been pursued to the extent possible given funding provided therefor, and that no habeas corpus petition will be filed) (one-half of this progress payment will be advanced upon request after counsel files a confidential declaration that counsel has completed the habeas corpus investigation to the extent possible given the

funding provided therefor); (v) one-fifth, less \$10,000, after counsel files a habeas corpus petition in this court on behalf of his or her client (except that if counsel files no petition, counsel must instead file a confidential declaration indicating that all potential leads have been pursued to the extent possible given funding provided therefor, and that no habeas corpus petition will be filed, after which counsel will receive no fifth progress payment, except upon a showing that in view of work performed, full or partial payment is warranted); and finally (vi) in the absence of a moratorium on the death penalty, \$10,000 after completion of representation in executive clemency proceedings before the Governor of California. With each request for payment except for those set forth above in (i), (v), and (vi), counsel shall provide to the court a statement from the assisting entity or counsel that counsel's submission to the entity or counsel substantially complies with the conditions set forth for payment.

Under limited circumstances (e.g., a delay in the certification of the record not due to a lack of diligence on the part of appointed counsel), the court will authorize partial payments before completion of the relevant stage(s) of representation.

In the event the proceedings terminate prior to the completion of all of the stages set forth in the progress payment schedule (as a result, for example, of the death of the defendant), appointed counsel shall memorialize all work completed and the court shall determine and pay an appropriate sum to compensate counsel for work performed prior to the termination of the proceedings.

6. Conversion From Time and Costs Appointment to Fixed Fee

[As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998 and Feb. 1, 2025.]

Counsel appointed to an automatic appeal, or an automatic appeal and habeas corpus/executive proceedings under the traditional time and costs basis of the Payment Guidelines are encouraged to consider converting their method of compensation pursuant to this optional, fixed fee payment system. Any such conversion must take into account any payments previously made to counsel, and must be approved by the Court. Ordinarily, conversion will not be approved after the filing of the appellant's opening brief.

Counsel appointed to a habeas corpus/executive clemency proceeding after October 25, 2017, will be appointed on a time and costs basis absent extraordinary circumstances.

Counsel approved by the Court for an appointment to his/her first automatic appeal and/or habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings should carefully consider an initial appointment under the time and costs basis of the Payment Guidelines. A

conversion to a fixed fee appointment pursuant to these alternative guidelines may be more appropriate after such counsel has become familiar with the case.

7. Second Counsel

The Court encourages association with second counsel. Unlike the procedure under the traditional time and costs appointment scheme of the Payment Guidelines, the fixed fees provided by this optional payment system are intended to adequately compensate appointed counsel and any associate counsel. Hence, the Court will not recognize a “second counsel override” in fixed fee cases.

8. Valuation and Length of Record on Appeal

[As amended July 18, 2001.]

In determining the length of the combined record on appeal as part of the process whereby a case may be valued within a fixed fee category, the Court will take into consideration whether an unusual proportion of the record is comprised of jury voir dire and/or preliminary hearing transcript. When appropriate, the Court may treat the combined record as having a reduced length. Moreover, consistent with this court’s historical practice, when determining the appropriate fixed fee category, the Court will not include, in determining the size of the combined record on appeal, the juror questionnaires completed by actual or prospective jurors.

9. Applicability of Supreme Court Policies Regarding Cases Arising From Judgments of Death

[As amended effective Jan. 22, 1998 and Feb. 1, 2025.]

The Supreme Court Policies Regarding Cases Arising From Judgments of Death, as revised, apply to all automatic appeals and habeas corpus/executive clemency proceedings in which counsel has opted for a fixed fee pursuant to these alternative guidelines.

10. Fixed Legal Fees and Expenses For Evidentiary Hearings

[Guideline adopted Jan. 22, 1997; as amended effective Jan. 22, 1998, Oct. 1, 2005, July 1, 2006, Oct. 1, 2007, Mar. 5, 2012, and July 15, 2026]

In a case in which an evidentiary hearing is ordered, habeas corpus counsel appointed by this Court litigating a petition filed in this Court and transferred to the superior court after October 25, 2017 may elect to enter a fixed legal fee and expenses

agreement covering (i) preparation for the evidentiary hearing, (ii) presentation of the evidentiary hearing, (iii) post-hearing litigation before the referee, and (iv) post-hearing briefs and proceedings.

(1) FIXED LEGAL FEE AND EXPENSE CATEGORIES. The Court and counsel for petitioner will agree to fix legal fees and expenses within one of the following categories.

Each agreement shall specify one fixed dollar sum covering *all* legal fees and *all* expenses — “incidental” and investigative — (e.g., photocopying, postage, telephone charges, travel, computerized legal research, services of law clerks and paralegals, services of and witness fees for investigators and experts, and any other witness expenses).

The fixed sum agreement shall also specify separately a dollar amount for the “legal fee component” and the “expenses component” of the fixed sum.

Category A: \$88,103 (\$79,603 legal fees; \$8,500 expenses)

A matter presenting a single issue or limited issues expected to require minimal additional investigation, minimal or no services of experts, and to consume 1-2 hearing days.

Category A(1): \$93,603 (\$79,603 legal fees; \$14,000 expenses)

A matter otherwise within Category A, but which is expected to require significant additional investigation and use of experts.

Category B: \$138,710 (\$124,710 legal fees; \$14,000 expenses)

A matter expected to require significant additional investigation and/or significant use of experts, and to consume 3-4 hearing days.

Category B(1): \$145,710 (\$124,710 legal fees; \$21,000 expenses)

A matter otherwise within Category B, but which is expected to require substantial additional investigation and use of experts.

Category C: \$200,104 (\$179,104 legal fees; \$21,000 expenses)

A matter expected to require substantial additional investigation and/or services of experts, and to consume 5-6 hearing days.

Category C(1): \$209,104 (\$179,104 legal fees; \$30,000 expenses)

A matter otherwise within Category C, but which is expected to require substantial additional investigation and use of experts.

Category D: \$257,224 *base sum* (\$222,224 base amount for legal fees; \$35,000 base amount for expenses)

A matter that is expected to require substantial additional investigation and services of experts, and to consume 7 or more hearing days. In this category, counsel may present justification at the outset for a fixed sum higher than the base amount.

(2) REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL LEGAL FEES. In extraordinary and unique situations, the Court will entertain requests for additional fees based on exceptional circumstances, as set out *ante*, Fixed Fee Appointment Guideline 3.

(3) CASE EVALUATION. A fixed fee and expenses agreement shall be reached within 60 days after an order is issued appointing a referee. Discussions with applicant counsel regarding proposals for such an agreement shall be conducted through the Capital Appointments Coordinator.

(4) FIXED LEGAL FEE AND EXPENSE PAYMENTS.

Fixed legal fee payments. Counsel shall be entitled to be paid one-fourth of the *legal fee component* of the amount set out in the fixed legal fee and expenses agreement upon the filing of the Court’s order making the fixed legal fee and expenses appointment. Thereafter, counsel will receive, on written request (but without the necessity of providing an itemization of hours), a one-fourth progress payment of the legal fee component after (i) the evidentiary hearing commences, (ii) the post-hearing litigation before the referee is completed, and (iii) the post-hearing briefing is completed. Under limited circumstances (e.g., substantial delay not due to lack of diligence on the part of counsel), the Court will authorize partial payments before completion of the aforementioned stages.

Expense payments. Every 30 days, counsel may request reimbursement from this Court for all necessary and reasonable expenses, up to the amount set out in the fixed legal fee and expenses agreement. Reimbursement shall be governed by and calculated in accordance with the Court’s Payment Guidelines, *supra*, part III (“Necessary Expenses”).

11. Court Action Upon Nonperformance of Work, and Reimbursement of Fees Upon Authorized Withdrawal of Appointed Counsel

[Guideline adopted effective July 30, 1997.]

The provisions of “Guideline V” of the “Payment Guidelines for Counsel Appointed by the Supreme Court Representing Indigent Criminal Appellants in California Courts” apply as well to counsel appointed on a “fixed fee” basis.