

Superior Court Of California

County Of Imperial

Administrative Policy Memorandum	Date Issued: May 22, 2005 Revised: March 7, 2008	Page 1 OF 2
Subject: Criteria for Court Appointment of Indigent Defense Counsel	Approved by: Donal B. Donnelly, Presiding Judge	

Purpose: To establish criteria and a list for court appointed indigent defense counsel in cases pending before the courts and to implement a process for the ongoing review of court appointment lists.

Policy: The following minimum experience is established for attorney seeking appointment by court.

TYPE OF CASE	MINIMUM EXPERIENCE	TRIAL EXPERIENCE	OTHER EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
Misdemeanors	6 months criminal practice		
Felonies	2 years criminal practice	At least 3 misdemeanor trials to completion	
Death Penalty	10 years criminal practice	Per CRC 4.117(d)	
Associate Counsel for Death Penalty	3 years criminal practice	Per CRC 4.117(e)	
Appellate Counsel	3 years civil and general practice		Subject matter expertise (i.e. misdemeanor, writs, habeas corpus, etc)
Juvenile Delinquency	1 year of criminal and juvenile delinquency practice		At least 6 months of specialized 602 representation
Juvenile Dependency	6 months of general practice		Local Rule 14.07
Conservatorship /3150 FC/Guardian Ad-Litem	2 years of general practice		Subject matter expertise (Family, Dependency, probate)

Other Requirements and Criteria

1. Attorney will be required to submit with their application a current résumé and Proof of Liability Insurance with a minimum amount of \$300,000.
2. Attorneys seeking Court appointment must submit an updated résumé describing total years of experience by type of litigation; number and type of trials completed; and mandatory continuing education courses completed to date.
3. Court will review and consider all applications and résumés submitted by counsel for inclusion to the attorney appointment lists on an as-needed basis, provided all requirements have been met.
4. Court appointments will be made from the approved Court Indigent Defense Counsel Appointment List on a rotating basis at the sole discretion of the Judicial Officer.
5. Effective immediately, court appointed counsel pursuant to Penal Code Section 987.2 may continue to have another attorney stand-in for him/her to make special appearances for brief or non-substantive matters due to unavailability, but wholesale delegation or subcontracting of a case previously assigned to an individual attorney will not be authorized. All appearances by stand-in attorneys will not be reimbursed by the Court or County.
6. The approved attorney list will be posted on the Court's Internet and Intranet websites (www.imperial.courts.ca.gov).
7. Attorneys currently under contract with the County, Court or AOC will be listed in a separate contract attorney list and will continue to be appointed pursuant to the terms of the corresponding contracts.