

The Sequester hits home

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It is a sad day indeed when the government of the United States has run out of funds to pay CJA attorneys, members of the defense bar who accept assignments to represent indigent federal criminal defendants pursuant to the <u>Criminal Justice Act</u>. While it is alarming that the world's greatest system of criminal justice cannot currently fund legal representation for those who cannot afford it, the impact of the sequester upon CJA counsel pales in comparison to the massive impact the sequester has had upon Offices of the Federal Defender across the country. Those offices have suffered layoffs and furloughs on a grand scale. See <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. We continue to urge our elected officials to do all within their power to restore funding to the judiciary to ensure that those accused of federal offenses receive the quality representation to which our Constitution entitles them.

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