

APPENDIX A: Chart Comparing CT Current Rates, CT Requested Rates, CT Federal Rates and Out of State Rates

CHART SHOWING HOURLY RATES OF PAY FOR ASSIGNED COUNSEL, FOR CT AND OTHER STATES:*

TYPE OF CASE	CT CURRENT RATES	CT PROPOSED RATES FOR FY 2028	CT FEDERAL RATES	CT OTHER AGENCY RATES	NY (all counties)	N.H.	WASH D.C.	VA	AK Alaska	NJ	ME	MI	ID	MA	RI (new 2025)	MD	CT PRIVATE AVG 2023
CRIMINAL (higher hourly rates for more difficult matters)	\$98 \$113 FY2027: Increase TBD	\$120 \$135	\$175 \$223 (Jan 1, 2025) \$177 \$226 (Jan 2026)	N/A but See below	\$158	\$90 \$100 \$150 \$125	\$110	\$90	\$150 Fel: \$175 Misd: \$125 \$155 \$125	\$100	\$150	\$100 \$120 \$140 .67 \$127 .84	\$150 \$151 \$110	\$120 \$85 \$65 See Attached.	\$142 capital or high felony \$112 all other criminal	\$75 \$60	\$331 (2023) \$350 (2024) \$361 (2026)
CHILD WELFARE AND GAL	\$98 \$113 FY2027: Increase TBD	\$120 \$135	N/.A*	N/A but See below	\$158	\$90	\$110	\$90	\$150	\$100	\$150	N/A	N/A	\$85	\$112 GALS \$65 Arraign: \$40	\$75 \$60	\$367 (2023) \$386 (2024) \$430 (2026)
OTHER				CT Judicial: \$200 Gov & AG: \$650, \$500., \$450, 345 Paralegal: \$250, \$150 AG: \$270-330 \$210-360 AG federal issue: \$550			Per Admin order 23-06 Effective 01/01/23										Source: CLIO, 2023 2024 2026

**All sources available upon request and previously provided to the Appropriations Committee*

Massachusetts:

MA has experienced some turmoil recently with assigned counsel refusing cases and backlogs. Their rates were quite low at the time. In 2025 it appears they adopted the follow rates and schedules for increases, from the Senate Press fact sheet:

With this provision, the Legislature is providing a significant increase in compensation for private bar counsel and upholding a bedrock principle of our justice system—the right to counsel for the accused.

Beginning on August 1, 2025, the annualized rate of pay for private bar counsel would range from \$150,000 to \$260,000, increasing to \$170,000 to \$280,000 beginning August 1, 2026. A breakdown of pay rates per court follows.

Court	Current Rate	Rate FY26 (effective 8/1/25)	Rate FY27 (effective 8/1/26)
District Court	\$65/hr	\$75/hr	\$85/hr
Children and Family Law	\$85/hr	\$95/hr	\$105/hr
Appeals	\$85/hr	\$95/hr	\$105/hr
Superior (excluding murder)	\$85/hr	\$95/hr	\$105/hr
Mental Health	\$65/hr	\$75/hr	\$85/hr
Juvenile	\$65/hr	\$75/hr	\$85/hr
Murder	\$120/hr	\$130/hr	\$140/hr
Children Requiring Assistance	\$65/hr	\$75/hr	\$85/hr

Protecting and Stabilizing the System

Minimizing Disruptions. A series of measures will minimize future disruptions, recognizing the government's Constitutional duty to provide legal representation to indigent defendants and protect the integrity of the overall justice system.

- All contractual agreements for the appointment of private counsel will need to prescribe requirements for minimum coverage and availability.
- Private counsel contractual agreements must be renewed biannually.
- An agreement among private bar advocates who refuse to compete for or accept new appointments or assignments unless the rates of pay are increased shall constitute evidence of a violation of the Commonwealth's antitrust laws, consistent with federal precedent.

Top-to-Bottom Watchdog Review

Independent, Non-Partisan Oversight. The Inspector General (IG) will examine the utilization of public defense and review the billing practices, procedures, and oversight of private bar advocates. This report, which will ensure integrity in the indigent defense system, is due back to the Legislature by June 30, 2026.

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NOTE: The 6th Amendment Center, a national nonprofit agency, however, which last year began tracking national rates, has the MA rates as \$95 and \$75 per hour. The Director of Assigned Counsel has reached out to the Chief Counsel of the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), Anthony Benediti, to confirm current MA rates.