

CJA 20

Automated Billing Program Attorney Training Guide

*Provided by the
Ninth Circuit
Circuit Executive's Office*

EXCEL BILLING FOR CJA CASES

NOTES ABOUT MICROSOFT EXCEL

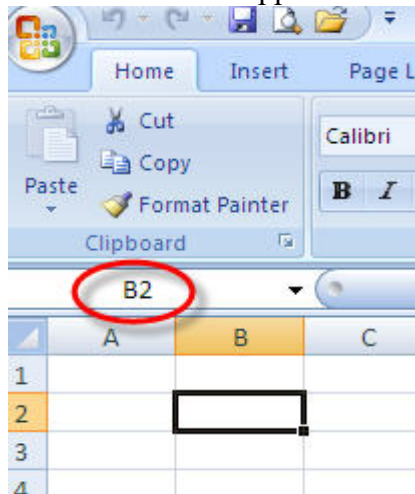
Microsoft Excel was selected as the program to drive this billing program because it is widely available and is Windows-based. The files created in Excel are managed in the same way on your computer as Word Perfect and Microsoft Word files. The files are easy to manage and easy to attach to emails.

This program was developed in Excel 2003. The latest version of Excel (2007) looks considerably different and there are some special considerations that are discussed for that version. However, the differences are largely cosmetic and the program should work in the same way.

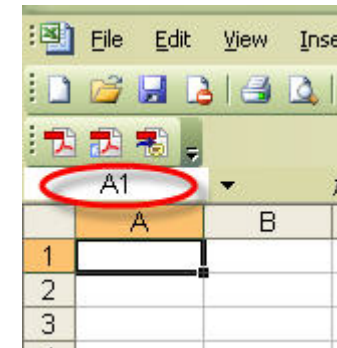
A basic knowledge of Excel is all that is necessary to use these billing spreadsheets. Excel is menu driven and has helpful icons like other popular windows-based programs. Many areas of the spreadsheets are password protected and therefore normal Excel functions, such as adding rows and columns, or adding and editing formulas, are not allowed.

Excel spreadsheets are also referred to as “workbooks.” This is because it allows the use of multiple worksheets or pages that interact with each other. As described in this guide, this billing file utilizes several separate worksheets to make the billing process easier and more user-friendly. You can move from sheet to sheet by selecting the desired worksheet from the tabs across the bottom of the file.

On each Excel worksheet, columns are labeled alphabetically and rows are labeled numerically. There is a name box in the upper left corner of the sheet that will tell you the cell you are in. The example to the right is an Excel 2003 sheet that has cell A1 selected.



The example to the left (in Excel 2007) has cell B2 selected. You can move around a sheet by tabbing from cell to cell, using the arrow buttons on your keyboard or clicking on the desired cell. If you try to access a protected part of the spreadsheet, you will get a warning that the cell is protected (click OK to proceed).

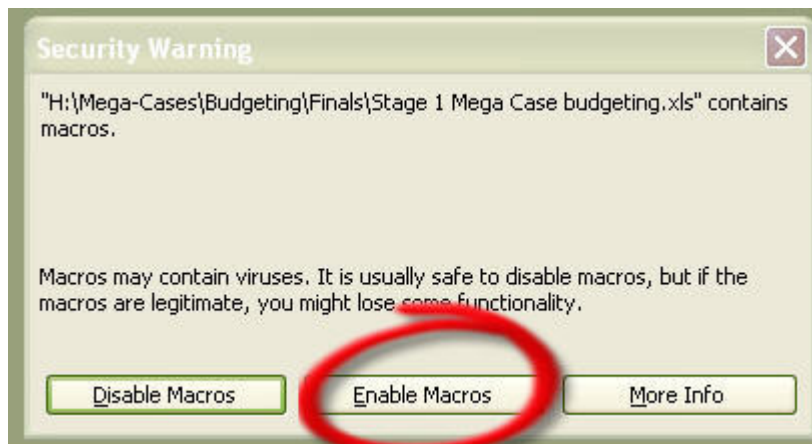


Because so much of the data entry will be numerical, it is suggested that you use the number lock on your keyboard so that your number pad will function like a calculator. This will probably make data entry more efficient and accurate.

Billing Overview and Set Up

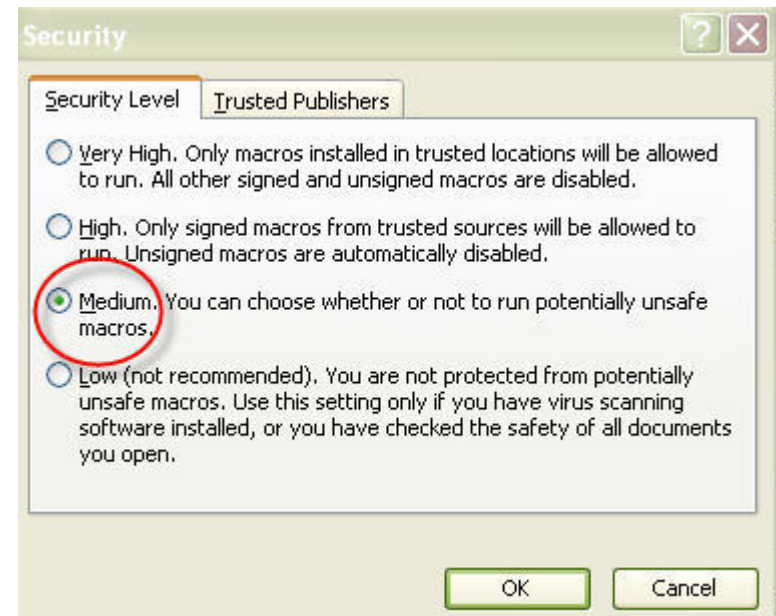
The billing file will either be e-mailed to the attorney or can be obtained via the district court's website. **There are two types of files that the court may use, but both files function in exactly the same way. One file allows multiple rates to be recorded on the same voucher. The other file allows only a single rate. This guide will explain both options.** Unless there is a specific note about the differences in the types of file, the particular function being discussed (such as security in the following section), is the same for both types of files. Once you have the appropriate file, save it to use as a “master” file that can be copied for each of your cases.

In versions of Excel prior to 2007, when you attempt to open the file, you should (if your security level is set correctly) get a message similar to the one shown here:

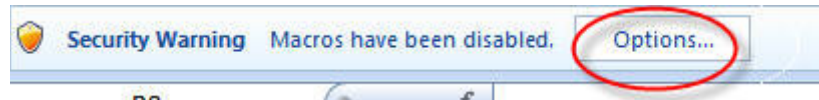


Viruses are sometimes transferred through macros, so your system may warn you that this program contains macros. This billing program is controlled by the court and is considered to be safe from viruses. **In order for the program to function properly, you must select “Enable Macros” if you get this, or a similar message. If you don’t get this message, you need to cancel opening the file and re-set your security level as described below.**

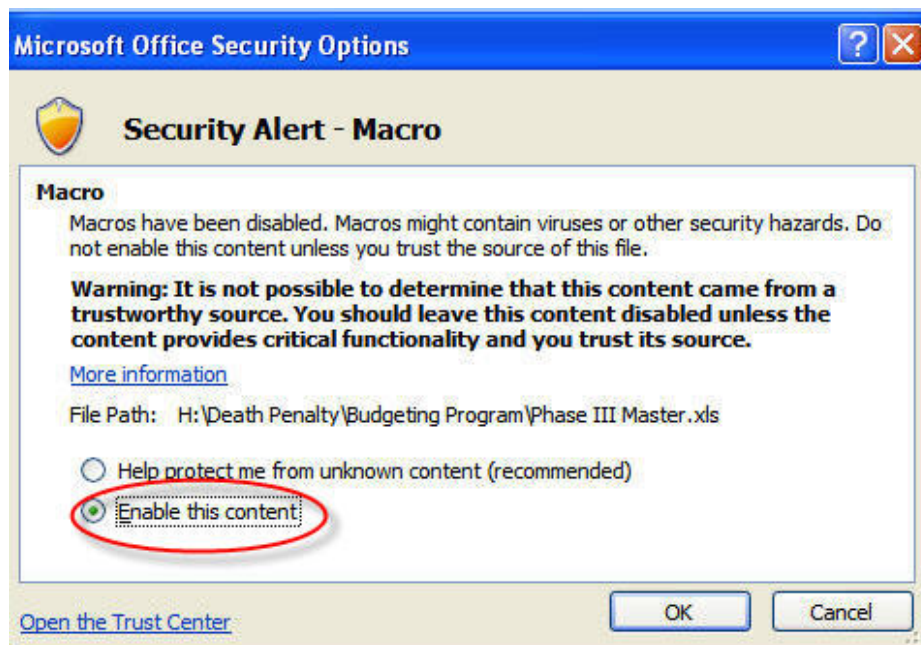
To set your security level properly, open a blank Excel file and go to Tools on the Menu Bar, click Options, click on the tab Security, click on Macro Security and set the Security level to Medium, as indicated here: Changing this setting will **NOT** compromise the security of your PC – it is simply giving you the choice to open a file containing macros.



In Excel 2007, the file will open without the separate security warning dialog box (shown on the previous page), but there will be a security warning at the top of the file, **under the menu bars**, as shown below:



Click on the Options button and choose “Enable this content” as shown:



GETTING STARTED

The automated billing program consists of several sheets to record costs and expenses. The program opens on the header page (shown below). The various sheets are listed on tabs (indicated by the yellow arrow) along the bottom edge of the Excel file.

Header Sheet

Microsoft Excel - CJA billing one rate.xls

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help Adobe PDF

C8

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF
CJA WORKSHEETS

To start the billing process, please complete the following information:

Case Number:

Case Name:

Defendant:

Judge:

Appointed Attorney

Full Name:

Firm Name:

Street or PO Box:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone#:

E-mail:

Rate/Hour: Type:

header in court out of court travel expenses other expenses summary voucher

To begin, fill out all the fields on the Header page, using the tab key to forward to the fields that need to be completed. The fields on this sheet will automatically populate the information on the other sheets, including the voucher. The information on this sheet does not clear when you clear the rest of the forms, so you only have to type the contact and specific case information once per case. You may want to type your contact information and make copies of the file (using the “Save as” command). That way, you need only type the specific case information (the first four fields) for each of your cases.

If your court is using the single rate billing program, there will be a rate field on the header page with a chart similar to this:

Rate History:	1/1/08-Current	\$	100.00
	5/20/07-12/31/07	\$	94.00
	1/1/06-5/19/07	\$	92.00

IN COURT/OUT OF COURT

Both the “in court” and “out of court” sheets function as your timesheet and are used to record the date, description and number of hours spent in a particular category. The case information is carried over from the header page. If you are using a multiple rate file, you will see a note in the column heading for the date (**Important!**) telling you to be sure that you enter the correct date, as the hourly rate is determined automatically by the dates in this column. The “in court” and “out of court” sheets in the **single rate** file looks identical to this except it does not have the note about the rate (since there is only one rate).

A11		fx 02/27/2008													
A		B		C		D		E		F		H		J	
CJA 20 Worksheet - Attorney Time															
Attorney: Perry Mason															
Defendant: Cosmo Kramer															
Case No: 07-cv-1234															
Judge: Judy Jones															
IMPORTANT! Hourly rates are determined by the date entered. Be sure all dates are correct.															
Date		Description		Doc Number (CM/ECF)		Pages		16.a. Interviews		16.b. Records		16.c. Research/Writing		16.d. Travel Time	
02/02/2007		Review police records								2.5					
02/27/2008		Interview client						3.1							
Hourly rate is determined by this date -- please make sure the date is correct.															

Ready

header / in court / **out of court** / travel expenses / other expenses / summary / voucher / cumulative / cja26 /

Enter the date, a brief description, the document number reflected on the docket in ECF (if applicable), number of pages for disclosure reviewed or motions filed, and the number of hours into the appropriate category. **(Remember: Billable hours are claimed in tenths of an hour; six (6) minutes = .1)** If you use the date format m/d/yy, the date will automatically convert to mm/dd/yyyy format. If you enter the date in a different format, you will get an error message that displays the appropriate format.

The “in court” sheet (not shown) looks and functions exactly the same as the “out of court” sheet. The only difference is the categories.

TRAVEL EXPENSES/OTHER EXPENSES

	A	B	C	E	G	I	K	M	O	Q
1	CJA 20 Worksheet - Travel Expenses									
2										
3	Attorney: <u>Perry Mason</u>									
4	Defendant: <u>Cosmo Kramer</u>									
5	Case No: <u>07-cv-1234</u>									
6	Judge: <u>Judy Jones</u>									
7										
8										
9	Date	Expense Description	Travel mileage	Airfare	Rental Car	Taxi/ Shuttle	Hotel	Meals	Parking/ Tolls/ Public Trans	Other Travel Expenses
10	2/27/2007	Drive to visit client	66.8						\$ 5.00	
11										
12	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> The mileage rate is determined by this date -- please make sure the date is correct. </div>									
13										
14										
15										
<div> header / in court / out of court / travel expenses / other expenses / summary / voucher / cumulative / cja26 / </div>										

The “travel expenses” sheet and the “other expenses” sheet (which are the same for both single and multiple rate files) will contain the basic case information, copied from the header sheet. Fill in the date, description and number of miles traveled. The mileage rate is dependent upon the date entered, so please make sure the dates entered are correct. Miscellaneous travel includes costs for parking, tolls, etc.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	CJA 20 - Voucher Summary							
2								
3	Attorney:	Perry Mason						
4	Defendant:	Cosmo Kramer						
5	Case No:	07-cv-1234						
6	Judge:	Judy Jones						
7								
8			1/1/2008 - Current		5/20/07 - 12/31/07		1/1/06 - 5/19/07	
9	Rate		\$100.00		\$94.00		\$92.00	
10	Categories		Hours Claimed	Court Adjustment	Hours Claimed	Court Adjustment	Hours Claimed	Court Adjustment
11	15a - Arraignment/Plea		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
12	15b - Bail/Detention		0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
13	15c - Motions		1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	15d - Trial		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15	15e - Sentencing		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
16	15f - Revocation		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
17	15g - Appeals Court		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18	15h - Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19	Total 15a - 15h (Hours)		1.7	0.0	1.2	0.0	2.0	0.0
20	Total In-Court x Rate Per Hour		\$170.00	\$0.00	\$112.80	\$0.00	\$184.00	\$0.00
21								
22	16a - Interviews		3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
23	16b - Records		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
24	16c - Research/Writing		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25	16d - Travel Time		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
26	16e - Investigative/Other		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	Total 16a - 16e (Hours)		3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0
28	Total Out-of-Court x Rate Per Hour		\$310.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$230.00	\$0.00

SUMMARY

The summary sheet displays the total hours in each voucher category as entered on both the “in court” and “out of court” sheets. The hours are automatically transferred by the program and all cells on this page are locked. If you try to enter or change any of these cells, you will get an error message. Any change to these hours should be made to the appropriate cell(s) on the appropriate sheet. This sheet provides a breakdown of hours claimed under different rates.

The **single rate** file also contains a summary sheet, but only has one column for attorney hours. Since the single rate is chosen on the header page, there is no need for different rate columns.

SUMMARY, cont.

This is a continuation of the Summary sheet, below the summary of hours. This portion of the sheet is the same for both the **single rate** and multiple rate files. These cells are also automatically filled in by the program, based on the data entered in the “travel expenses” and “other expenses” sheets. These cells are locked, so any changes must be made to the appropriate category on one of the expenses sheets.

The information on this sheet transfers automatically to the voucher.

17. Travel Miles		2/1/2007 - Current	1/1/2006 - 1/31/2007	9/1/2005 - 12/31/2005
Rate per mile:		0.485	0.445	0.485
Total Miles Claimed		84.0	32.6	-
Court Adjustments		-	-	-
Total Adjusted Mileage x Rate Per Mile		\$ 40.74	\$ 14.51	\$ -
		Atty Request	Court Adj. (if any)	Total Approved
17. Travel Misc.		\$ 5.00	\$ -	\$ 5.00
17. Total Travel Expenses		\$ 60.25	\$ -	\$ 60.25
18. Facsimile		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18. Long Distance Charges		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18. Photo Copies		\$ 125.20	\$ -	\$ 125.20
18. Postage		\$ 2.75	\$ -	\$ 2.75
18. Other Expenses		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18. Total Other Expenses		\$ 127.95	\$ -	\$ 127.95
Amounts transferred to voucher:		\$1,195.00	\$ -	\$1,195.00

VOUCHER

CJA 20 (Electronic Form) APPOINTMENT OF AND AUTHORITY TO PAY COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL (Rev. 12/03)									
1. CIR./DIST./DIV. CODE		2. PERSON REPRESENTED Cosmo Kramer			VOUCHER NUMBER				
3. MAG. DKT./DEF. NUMBER		4. DIST. DKT./DEF. NUMBER 07-cv-1234		5. APPEALS DKT./DEF. NUMBER		6. OTHER DKT. NUMBER			
7. IN CASE/MATTER OF (Case Name)		8. PAYMENT CATEGORY Felony		9. TYPE PERSON REPRESENTED Adult Defendant		10. REPRESENTATION TYPE CC criminal case			
11. OFFENSE(S) CHARGED (Cite U.S. Code, Title & Section) <i>If more than one offense, list (up to five) major offenses charged, as</i>					<div> <div>CC criminal case</div> <div> NT new trial MA Motion attacking a sentence MC Motion to correct/reduce sentence HC Habeas corpus, non-capital BP Bail presentation WI Material witness WW Witnesses </div> </div>				
12. ATTORNEY'S NAME (First Name, M.I., Last Name, including any suffix), AND MAILING ADDRESS: Name: Perry Mason Address: Mason & Associates 111 Della Street Hollywood, CA Phone #: 7145554545 Fax #:			13. COURT ORDER: O - Appointi Prior Attorney's Name <input type="checkbox"/> Because the above-named person is not otherwise satisfied this Court that he or she (1) is financially unable to employ counsel and (2) does not wish to waive counsel, and because the interests of justice so require, the attorney whose name appears in item 12 is appointed to represent this person in his case, OR <input type="checkbox"/> Other (See Instructions)						
14. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAW FIRM (Only provide per instructions) Name: Address:			Signature of presiding Judicial Officer or By Order of the Court Date of Order Nunc Pro Tunc Date Repayment or partial repayment ordered from the person represented for this service at time of appointment. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
CLAIM FOR SERVICES AND EXPENSES				FOR COURT USE ONLY					
Categories (Attach itemization of services with dates)		HOURS CLAIMED	TOTAL AMOUNT CLAIMED	Math/Tech. Adjusted Hrs	Math/Tech. Adjusted Amounts	Additional Review	Amount Authorized		
15. In Court	a. Arraignment and/or Plea	2.0	184.00	-	-	-	184.00		
	b. Bail and Detention Hearings	1.2	112.80	-	-	-	112.80		
	c. Motion Hearings	1.7	170.00	-	-	-	170.00		
	d. Trial	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	e. Sentencing Hearings	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	f. Revocation Hearings	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	g. Appeals Court	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	h. Other (Specify on additional sheets)	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTALS		4.9	466.80	-	-	-	466.80		
16. Out of Court	a. Interviews and Conferences	3.1	310.00	-	-	-	310.00		
	b. Obtaining and reviewing records	2.5	230.00	-	-	-	230.00		
	c. Legal Research and brief writing	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	d. Travel time	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	e. Investigative & other work (Specify on additional sheets)	-	-	-	-	-	-		
TOTALS		5.6	540.00	-	-	-	540.00		
17. Travel Expenses (lodging, parking, meals, mileage, etc.)		\$ 60.25	60.25	-	-	-	60.25		
18. Other Expenses (other than expert, transcripts, etc.)		\$ 127.95	127.95	-	-	-	127.95		
GRAND TOTALS (CLAIMED AND ADJUSTED):			1,195.00				1,195.00		

The vouchers for both the multiple rate file and the single rate file, have the same functionality. The basic information from the header file will populate both types of voucher. Both types also have pull down menus for the following fields:

- Payment category
- Type Person Represented
- Representation Type (shown)
- Court Order
- Case Disposition (shown in next example)

This sheet will contain the hours and expenses, transferred from the “summary” sheet. Most of the cells on this sheet cells will be locked – any changes must be made on the “in court” or “out of court” sheet (for hours) or the “travel expenses” or “other expenses” sheet (for mileage, travel expenses and other expenses).

VOUCHER, cont.

19. CERTIFICATION OF ATTORNEY/PAYEE FOR THE PERIOD OF SERVICE		20. APPOINTMENT TERMINATION		21. CASE DISPOSITION	
From: 02/02/2007 to: 02/27/2008		DATE IF OTHER THAN CASE COMPLETION:		Affirmed in Part/Reversed in Part	
22. CLAIM STATUS: <input type="radio"/> Final Payment <input checked="" type="radio"/> Interim Payment Number 2 <input type="radio"/> Supplemental Payment					
(Payment #)					
Have you previously applied to the court for compensation and/or reimbursement for this case? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, were you paid? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
Other than from the court, have you, or to your knowledge has anyone else, received payment (compensation or anything of value) from any other source in connection with this representation? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, give details on additional sheets.					
I swear or affirm the truth or correctness of the above statements.					
Signature of Attorney				Date	
APPROVED FOR PAYMENT--COURT USE ONLY					
23. IN COURT COMP.		24. OUT OF COURT COMP		25. TRAVEL EXPENSES	
26. OTHER EXPENSES		27. TOTAL AMT. APPR./CERT.			
28. SIGNATURE OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE				DATE	
Judy Jones				28a. JUDGE CODE	
29. IN COURT COMP.		30. OUT OF COURT COMP		31. TRAVEL EXPENSES	
32. OTHER EXPENSES		33. TOTAL AMT. APPR./CERT.			
34. SIGNATURE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS (OR DELEGATE)				DATE	
<i>Payment approved in excess of the statutory threshold amount.</i>				34a. JUDGE CODE	

On the bottom part of the voucher, the “from” and “to” dates will be populated based on the dates you have entered on the “in court” and/or “out of court” sheets.

Below the voucher is a button that will allow you to print the forms that you would submit to the court. You also have the option to print just the voucher.

CUMULATIVE

The “cumulative” sheet is mainly for court use, but is available to show you a list of all the vouchers filed in a particular case.

CJA26

The CJA 26 form is required for cases that anticipate attorney services in excess of \$7,000. Cases with less than \$7,000 in attorney services are not required to complete the CJA 26. The CJA26 sheet in this file is a replica of the AO form and is provided here for convenience. A few of the fields are populated automatically with information from the “header” sheet, but most of the form requires attorney input. The tab key will tab you through each field that requires input.

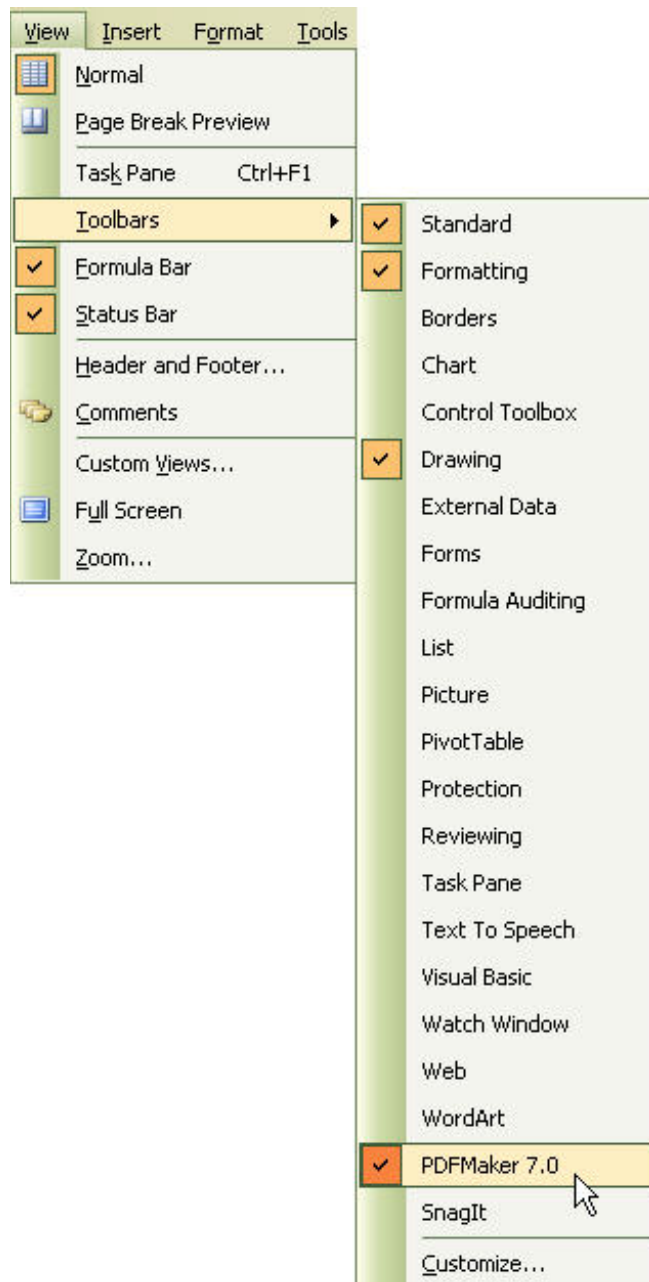
COURT ADJUSTMENTS

The sheets that allow attorneys to input their time and expenses, also allows the court to input adjustments. Should the court make adjustments, those adjustments can be viewed by counsel next to the entry that is being adjusted. Otherwise, those columns are hidden to make it easier to enter time and expenses.

The example on the right shows a portion of the “out of court” sheet that contains adjustments made by the court. Adjustments can be made to both time sheets and both expense sheets and are also shown on the “summary” sheet.

16.a. Interviews	Court Adjustments	16.b. Records	Court Adjustments	16.c. Research/Writing	Court Adjustments
4.2	-1.4				
		3.9	-1.5		

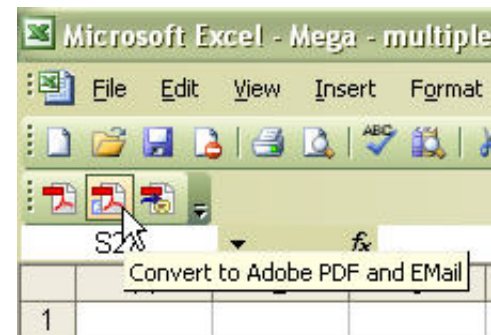
CONVERTING TO PDF FORMAT



Excel can convert the sheets to pdf format for e-filing. There are several ways to accomplish this. If you would like to preview the file in pdf format before e-mailing, save the file using the pdf menu, shown right.



You can also have the file converted to pdf format and attached to an e-mail without opening Adobe. You can do this by clicking the second Adobe icon.

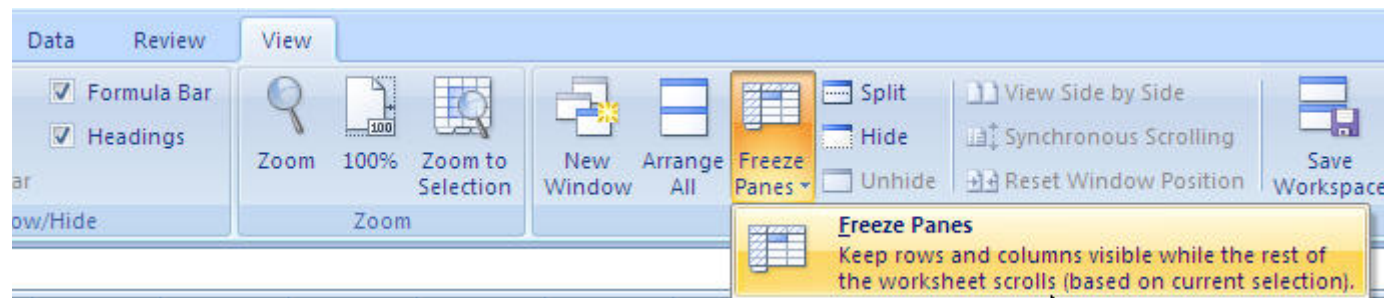
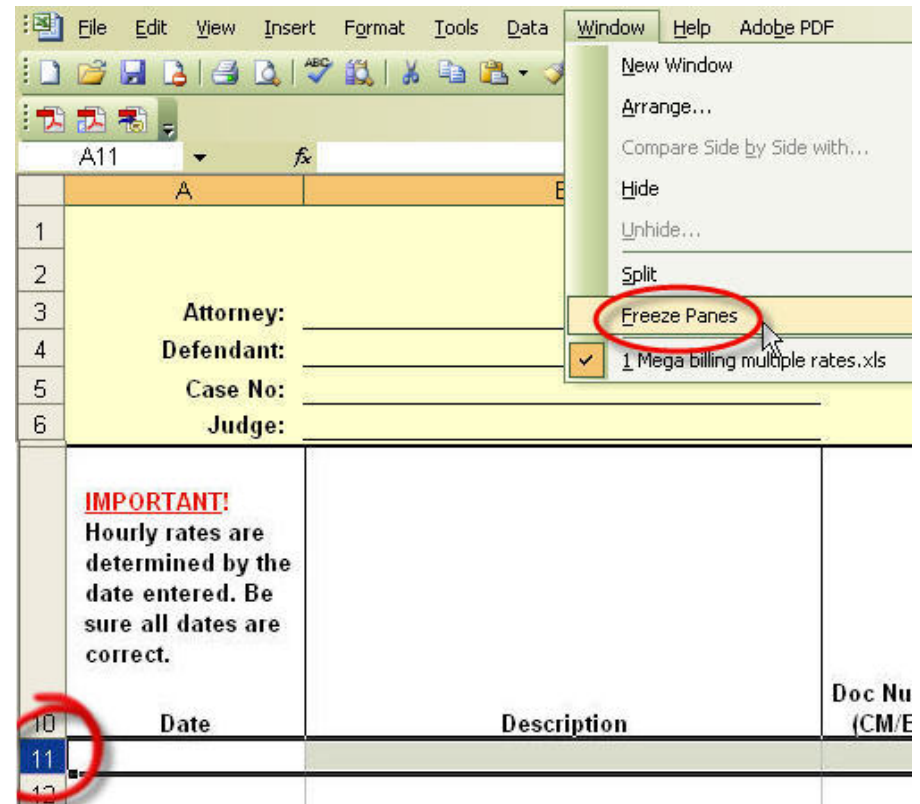


If you don't see these icons on your toolbar, click View, Toolbars, and click on PDF Maker as shown left.

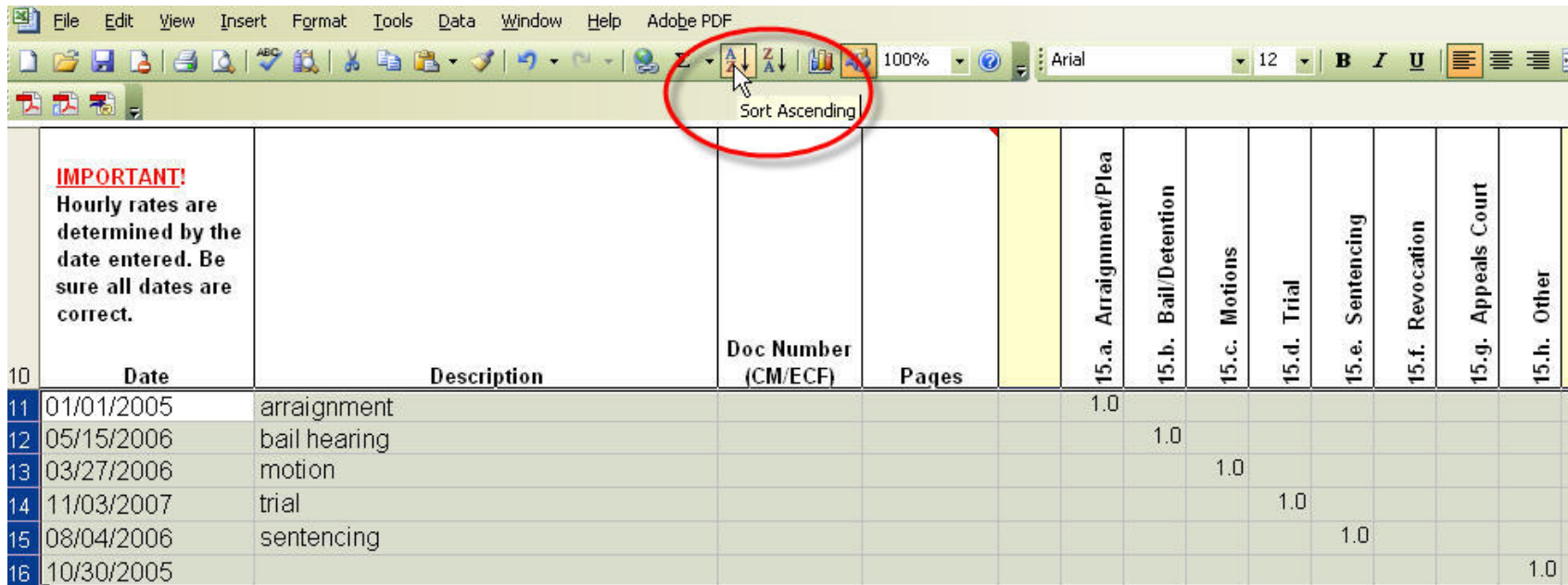
EXCEL TIPS

To make it easier to enter your time in the appropriate categories, the Services tab has Excel's "freeze panes" feature activated. This feature allows the rows with the category information to "freeze" on the page so that as you scroll down to make entries onto the sheet, you can still see the column headers. If this feature is not activated, in pre-2007 versions of Excel, go to Window on the menu bar and click "Freeze Panes." To freeze the pane in the proper position, you must first click on cell A11. To unfreeze, click on Window and "Unfreeze Panes."

In Excel 2007, shown below, go to the View tab, choose Freeze Pane. Again, you must be on cell A11 in order for the sheet to "freeze" in the correct position.



You do not have to enter your time in chronological order – Excel can put the entries in chronological order for you. In pre-2007, highlight all the rows and columns that contain data by clicking on the first row number (row 11) and dragging down to the end of the entries. This should highlight the entire row with all the data as shown below. Click the “Sort Ascending” button on the toolbar and the program will sort the entries in ascending order, using the first column (the date column).

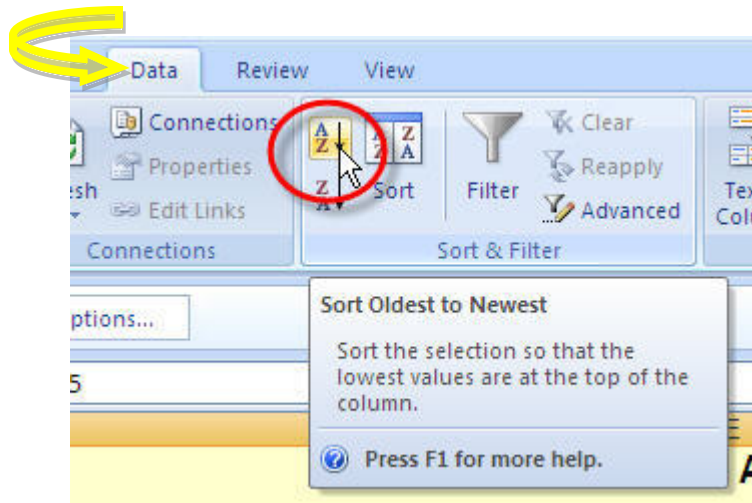


	IMPORTANT! Hourly rates are determined by the date entered. Be sure all dates are correct.					15.a. Arraignment/Plea	15.b. Bail/Detention	15.c. Motions	15.d. Trial	15.e. Sentencing	15.f. Revocation	15.g. Appeals Court	15.h. Other
10	Date	Description	Doc Number (CM/ECF)	Pages									
11	01/01/2005	arraignment				1.0							
12	05/15/2006	bail hearing					1.0						
13	03/27/2006	motion						1.0					
14	11/03/2007	trial							1.0				
15	08/04/2006	sentencing								1.0			
16	10/30/2005												1.0

The data will automatically be sorted into the correct order:

10	Date	Description	Doc Number (CM/ECF)	Pages		15.a	15.b	15.c	15.d	15.e	15.f	15.g	15.h
11	01/01/2005	arraignment				1.0							
12	10/30/2005												1.0
13	03/27/2006	motion						1.0					
14	05/15/2006	bail hearing					1.0						
15	08/04/2006	sentencing								1.0			
16	11/03/2007	trial							1.0				

In Excel 2007, highlight the data in the same manner, go to the “Data” tab and again, choose “Sort Ascending.”\

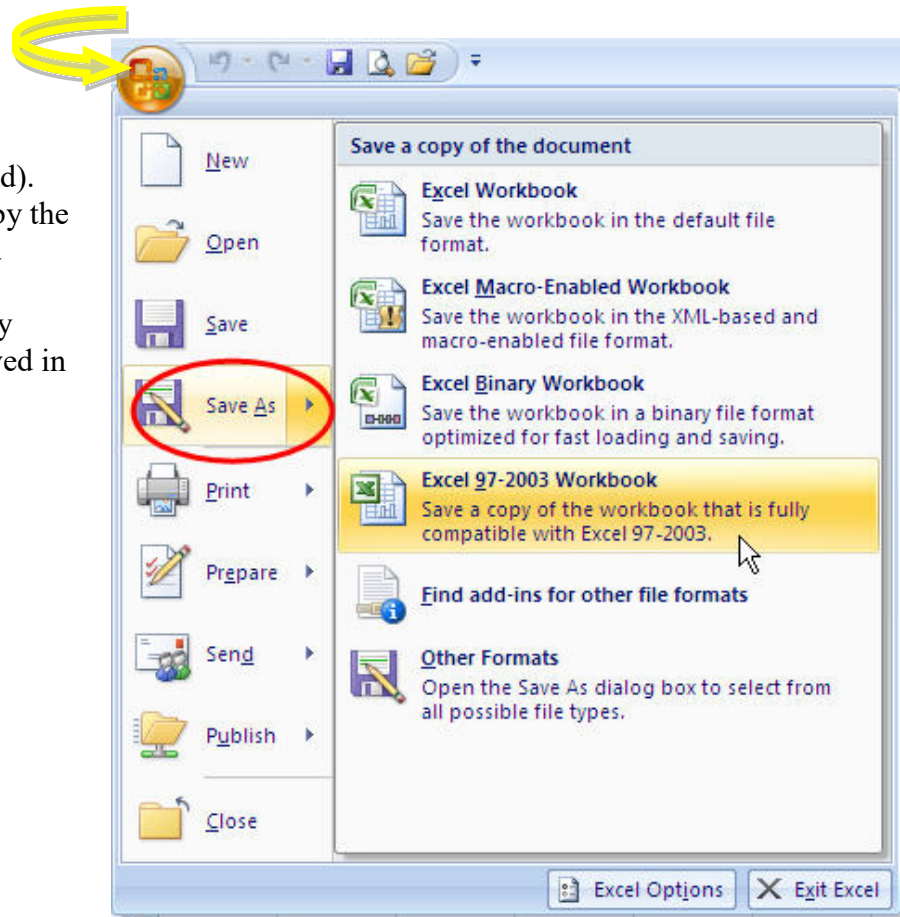


Important! You must select the entire row in order to keep the sorted data together. If you select just the dates, Excel will only sort the dates – the categorized hours will not be sorted.

SAVING THE FILE

Remember to rename the file (using the “Save As” command).

NOTE: If you are using Excel 2007, you may be required by the court (unless they also have Excel 2007) to save the file in a version that is compatible with earlier versions of Excel, as demonstrated here. To tell if a file is saved in “compatibility mode,” the file will have the .xls extension. If the file is saved in Excel 2007 the extension will be .xlsx.



CLEARING THE FILE

There are two buttons on the “header” sheet that will allow you to clear either the entire workbook (*i.e.*, all the worksheets) or just your time and expenses. You would use the “clear time & expenses” button if you are filing interim vouchers, so you won’t have to re-type the information on the header sheet or on the CJA26. Once the sheets have been cleared, they are ready for new entries for your next submission. The “clear all worksheets” button does just that – it clears every sheet, including the cumulative sheet.