

INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY

THIS REPORT USES DATA FROM HARRIS COUNTY'S NEW INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD TO SHOW HOW FREQUENTLY EACH OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES UTILIZES THE HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING UP TO 20% OF ALL DISTRICT COURT INDIGENT APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT COURTS BY LOWEST PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT RATE

FEBRUARY 2022

#1 JUDGE JASON LUONG



9.04%

OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO

185TH DISTRICT COURT

#2 JUDGE BROCK THOMAS



9.92%

OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO

RIC

#3 JUDGE MARITZA ANTU



11.51%

OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO

482ND DISTRICT COURT

<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	<u>% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO</u>
4.	208TH	GREG GLASS	12.04%
5.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	12.28%
6.	174TH	HAZEL B. JONES	12.50%
7.	176TH	NIKITA V. HARMON	13.58%
8.	177TH	ROBERT JOHNSON	14.20%
9.	184TH	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	14.40%
10.	180TH	DASEAN JONES	14.88%
11.	338TH	RAMONA FRANKLIN	15.48%
12.	232ND	JOSH HILL	15.93%
13.	228TH	FRANK AGUILAR	16.00%
14.	179TH	ANA MARTINEZ	16.42%
15.	178TH	KELLI JOHNSON	18.54%
16.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	18.87%
17.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	18.88%
18.	337TH	COLLEEN GAIDO	19.35%
19.	351ST	NATALIA "NATA" CORNELIO	20.00%
20.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	20.36%
21.	230TH	CHRIS MORTON	22.88%
22.	248TH	HILARY UNGER	28.29%
23.	209TH	BRIAN E WARREN	31.97%
24.	339TH	TE'IVA J. BELL	34.13%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE

17.29%

The 6th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires the appointment of an attorney for anyone facing criminal charges that is unable to afford their own. In Harris County, the judges of the district courts select attorneys for any indigent defendant facing charges in their court.

Despite the establishment of the Harris County Public Defender's Office in 2011, many of Harris County's elected district court judges fail to appoint the Public Defender's Office to capacity, opting to appoint private attorneys to represent indigent defendants instead.

Recent research conducted in Harris County shows that private attorneys receiving appointments are less effective than the Harris County Public Defender's Office in addition to frequently donating to judicial re-election campaigns and exceeding the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's maximum recommended caseload limits.