INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

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

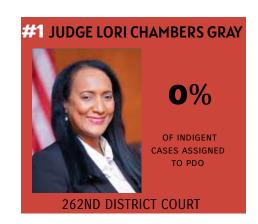
THIS REPORT USES DATA FROM HARRIS COUNTY'S NEW INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD TO SHOW HOW FREQUENTLY EACH OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES UTILIZES THE HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING UP TO 20% OF ALL DISTRICT COURT INDIGENT APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT COURTS BY LOWEST PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT RATE

AUGUST 2021







<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO
2.	338тн	RAMONA FRANKLIN	1.04%
3.	209тн	BRIAN E WARREN	1.32%
4.	185тн	JASON LUONG	1.54%
5.	176тн	NIKITA V. HARMON	2.61%
6.	RIC	BROCK THOMAS	6.43%
7.	180тн	DASEAN JONES	7.66%
8.	351sT	NATALIA "NATA" CORNELIO	14.62%
9.	179тн	ANA MARTINEZ	14.76%
10.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	15.29%
11.	184тн	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	15.91%
12.	339тн	TE'IVA J. BELL	17.20%
13.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	17.32%
14.	228тн	FRANK AGUILAR	17.78%
15.	177тн	ROBERT JOHNSON	18.13%
16.	337тн	COLLEEN GAIDO	19.69%
17.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	20.22%
18.	232ND	JOSH HILL	21.15%
19.	248тн	HILARY UNGER	22.40%
20.	208тн	GREG GLASS	23.08%
21.	178тн	KELLI JOHNSON	23.61%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE

11.92%

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.