INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

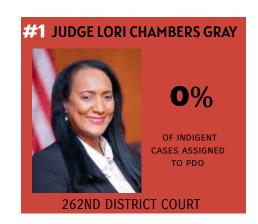
THIS REPORT USES DATA FROM HARRIS COUNTY'S NEW INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD TO SHOW HOW FREQUENTLY EACH OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES UTILIZES THE HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING UP TO 20% OF ALL DISTRICT COURT INDIGENT APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT COURTS BY LOWEST PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT RATE

FEBRUARY 2021







<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO
2.	209тн	BRIAN E. WARREN	1.63%
3.	232ND	JOSH HILL	1.92%
4.	180тн	DASEAN JONES	2.19%
5.	176тн	NIKITA V. HARMON	2.52%
6.	208тн	GREG GLASS	2.81%
7.	338тн	RAMONA FRANKLIN	3.10%
8.	RIC	BROCK THOMAS	3.67%
9.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	5.04%
10.	185тн	JASON LUONG	5.17%
11.	177тн	ROBERT JOHNSON	9.21%
12.	228тн	FRANK AGUILAR	11.63%
13.	351sT	NATA CORNELIO	12.70%
14.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	16.36%
15.	248тн	HILARY UNGER	18.44%
16.	184тн	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	20.00%
17.	337тн	COLLEEN GAIDO	21.38%
18.	179тн	ANA MARTINEZ	22.08%
19.	178тн	KELLI JOHNSON	24.29%
20.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	26.42%
21.	339тн	TE'IVA J. BELL	32.87%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE

10.23%

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.