## INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

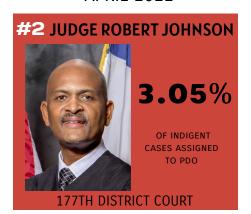
A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY

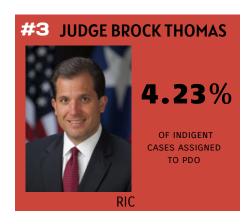
THIS REPORT USES DATA FROM HARRIS COUNTY'S NEW INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD TO SHOW HOW FREQUENTLY EACH OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES UTILIZES THE HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING UP TO 20% OF ALL DISTRICT COURT INDIGENT APPOINTMENTS.

## DISTRICT COURTS BY LOWEST PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT RATE

APRIL 2022







<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO
4.	178тн	KELLI JOHNSON	7.07%
5.	248тн	HILARY UNGER	7.51%
6.	184тн	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	7.76%
7.	228тн	FRANK AGUILAR	8.16%
8.	174тн	HAZEL B. JONES	8.38%
9.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	9.30%
10.	339тн	TE'IVA J. BELL	9.34%
11.	337тн	COLLEEN GAIDO	10.00%
12.	176тн	NIKITA V. HARMON	10.27%
13.	185тн	JASON LUONG	10.29%
14.	482ND	MARITZA ANTU	10.32%
15.	351sT	NATALIA "NATA" CORNELIO	10.40%
16.	183rd	CHUCK SILVERMAN	11.69%
17.	232ND	JOSH HILL	12.83%
18.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	13.38%
19.	209тн	BRIAN E WARREN	14.19%
20.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	15.24%
21.	179тн	ANA MARTINEZ	17.09%
22.	208тн	GREG GLASS	17.68%
23.	180тн	DASEAN JONES	19.88%
24.	230тн	CHRIS MORTON	23.91%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE

10.82%

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.