INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

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

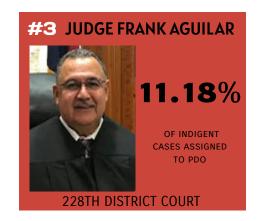
THIS REPORT USES DATA FROM HARRIS COUNTY'S NEW INDIGENT DEFENSE DASHBOARD TO SHOW HOW FREQUENTLY EACH OF THE DISTRICT COURT JUDGES UTILIZES THE HARRIS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF RECEIVING UP TO 20% OF ALL DISTRICT COURT INDIGENT APPOINTMENTS.

DISTRICT COURTS BY LOWEST PUBLIC DEFENDER APPOINTMENT RATE

OCTOBER 2022







<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO
4.	176тн	NIKITA V. HARMON	12.74%
5.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	13.09%
6.	174тн	HAZEL B. JONES	13.21%
7.	177тн	ROBERT JOHNSON	13.46%
8.	185тн	JASON LUONG	13.89%
9.	248тн	HILARY UNGER	15.43%
10.	351sT	NATALIA "NATA" CORNELIO	15.82%
11.	208тн	GREG GLASS	15.98%
12.	339тн	TE'IVA J. BELL	16.03%
13.	482ND	MARITZA ANTU	16.22%
14.	180тн	DASEAN JONES	17.12%
15.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	17.50%
16.	209тн	BRIAN E WARREN	17.90%
17.	184тн	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	18.40%
18.	230тн	CHRIS MORTON	19.27%
19.	338тн	RAMONA FRANKLIN	20.81%
20.	178тн	KELLI JOHNSON	20.90%
21.	179тн	ANA MARTINEZ	21.05%
22.	232ND	JOSH HILL	23.43%
23.	337тн	COLLEEN GAIDO	24.03%
24.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	25.88%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE

16.01%

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.