

INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

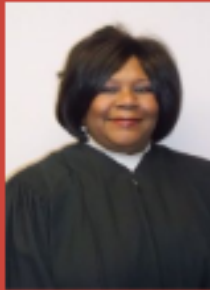
A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

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

OCTOBER 2020

#1 JUDGE NIKITA HARMON



2.86%

OF INDIGENT
CASES ASSIGNED
TO PDO

176TH DISTRICT COURT

#2 JUDGE RANDY ROLL



3.23%

OF INDIGENT
CASES ASSIGNED
TO PDO

179TH DISTRICT COURT

#3 JUDGE FRANK AGUILAR



4.17%

OF INDIGENT
CASES ASSIGNED
TO PDO

228TH DISTRICT COURT

<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	<u>% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO</u>
4.	351ST	GEORGE POWELL	4.22%
5.	180TH	DASEAN JONES	5.37%
6.	230TH	CHRIS MORTON	7.19%
7.	177TH	ROBERT JOHNSON	7.19%
8.	174TH	HAZEL JONES	9.09%
9.	RIC	BROCK THOMAS	11.54%
10.	185TH	JASON LUONG	11.69%
11.	232ND	JOSH HILL	13.46%
12.	184TH	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	15.56%
13.	339TH	JESSE MCCLURE	19.59%
14.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	19.76%
15.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	20.34%
16.	178TH	KELLI JOHNSON	22.89%
17.	208TH	GREG GLASS	27.13%
18.	338TH	RAMONA FRANKLIN	27.39%
19.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	32.68%
20.	248TH	HILARY UNGER	34.29%
21.	209TH	BRIAN WARREN	37.66%
22.	337TH	HERB RITCHIE	40.28%
23.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	41.49%

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.