

**FAIR DEFENSE ACT  
APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES  
174<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT**

In furtherance of the Fair Defense Act's primary goal of providing qualified counsel to indigent defendants, and in accordance with the procedures adopted by the judges trying criminal cases in Harris County, the 174<sup>th</sup> District Court adopts a method of appointing attorneys that is a **combination** method of appointing attorneys that combines *individual case* and *term* appointment methods.

INDIVIDUAL CASE APPOINTMENTS (See *Standards and Procedures* 7.1, 8.0, 9.1). Attorneys will be assigned to handle capital cases, appeals and conflicts by the *individual case* appointment method as established by the procedures adopted by the judges trying criminal cases in Harris County.

TERM APPOINTMENTS (See *Standards and Procedures* 7.2, 8.0, 9.2). The Court will employ three (3) qualified attorneys for one-year *term* appointments. The three *term* attorneys will be appointed to handle all the indigent cases before the court except for capital cases and appeals.

The Court will not appoint *term* attorneys to represent more than 5 new defendants a day. Term attorneys will carry a caseload of approximately 35 indigent defendants' cases at any given time.

Attorneys appointed to a *term* assignment will be paid in accordance with the established fee schedule.

If a *term* appointment attorney is terminated during the term, the Court will state its reasons for such action.

No *term* appointment attorney will be allowed to contribute to the judge's re-election campaign.

Establishment of a one-year term and the conditions of appointment specified by the Court ensures the independence of attorneys selected for term appointments.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Individual Case Appointments: Attorneys selected for individual case assignments must meet the qualifications established by the board of judges and appropriate to the offense with which defendant is charged. See *Standards and Procedures* 7.1, 9.1.

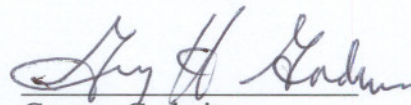
Term Appointments: Attorneys selected for term appointments must :

1. retain all pending cases at the end of the term;
2. have practiced criminal law for a minimum of 12 years;
3. have served as first chair on at least 50 felony jury trials, including murder trial tried to a jury and at least 10 other first-degree felony jury trials. Capital experience is preferred but not required;
4. have handled 500 felony cases as defense counsel or prosecutor;
5. have handled 20 contested motions to suppress or other contested motion hearings;
6. have a contract with a licensed private investigator;
7. be bilingual or contract with a certified interpreter;
8. have no pending disciplinary action with the state bar;
9. be board certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, or meet the requirements for certification.

See *Standards and Procedures* 7.2, 9.2.

Applications for Term Appointments. Attorneys shall submit their request for appointment to the Central Appointment Coordinator no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1, 2006<sup>7</sup>, for consideration for assignment for the term beginning January of the following year. See *Standards and Procedures* 7.2, 8.8, 9.2. The court, in its discretion, may conduct interviews of qualified applicants.

Date signed: 190 d 07

  
George Godwin,  
Judge, 174<sup>th</sup> District Court