

**FAIR DEFENSE ACT
APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES
232ND 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 of the alternative plan adopted by the judges trying criminal cases in Harris County, the 232nd District Court will use the individual case and term appointment methods. Attorneys will be paid in accordance with the established fee schedule.

INDIVIDUAL CASE APPOINTMENTS (See *Standards and Procedures* 7.1, 8.0 & 9.1): The Court will use the individual case method to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants (1) at trial and (2) in post-conviction proceedings when the term appointed attorneys are unavailable to take the assignments.

TERM APPOINTMENTS(See *Standards and Procedures* 7.2,8.0,9.2): The Court will employ three qualified attorneys for one-year term appointments. The three term attorneys will be appointed to handle all non-death, post-conviction proceedings, including direct appeals, post conviction writs, and DNA motions.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Individual Case Appointments Criteria: Attorneys assigned according to the individual case method must meet the qualifications established by the board of judges.


Term Appointments Criteria: To qualify for term assignment, attorneys must:

1. be board certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization;
2. have practiced criminal law in Texas for at least 15 years;
3. have written at least 50 appellate briefs in criminal cases; and
4. demonstrate a commitment to completing appellate work in a timely manner and in accordance with the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Applications for Term Appointments: Attorneys shall submit their request for appointment to the Central Appointment Coordinator no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2008, for consideration of the assignment for the term beginning January of the following year. See *Standards and Procedures*, 7.2, 8.0, 9.2. The court, in its discretion, may conduct interviews of qualified applicants.

Date signed: _____

10/23/08



Mary Lou Keel
Judge, 232nd District Court