

Harris County Veteran's Court Program

TERM ASSIGNMENT

The Harris County Veterans' Court Program will appoint two attorneys for a one-year term to advise and represent individuals enrolled in the Veterans' Court (VC) program. The VC attorneys will be paid on an hourly basis in accordance with the established fee schedule. Such payment will not constitute a conflict with other court appearances. The attorneys will be assigned to the VC docket on Wednesday afternoons. Attorneys should also anticipate covering for each other as needed.

QUALIFICATIONS. VC Attorneys must meet the following qualifications:

- 1) be licensed and in good standing with the State Bar of Texas;
- 2) have no pending disciplinary action by the State Bar of Texas;
- 3) have practiced in the area of criminal law for at least **four (4)** years;
- 4) have tried to verdict at least **four (4)** felony jury trials as lead counsel;
- 5) meet the criteria for capital or felony certification adopted by the board of judges trying criminal cases in Harris County;
- 6) exhibited proficiency and commitment to providing quality representation to criminal defendants;
- 7) demonstrated professionalism and reliability when providing representation to criminal defendants;
- 8) average **ten (10)** hours a year of continuing legal education courses or other training relating to criminal law;
- 9) be on the current Harris County list of attorneys approved to accept second-degree (or higher) felony appointments; and
- 10) be willing to participate in training in the areas of addiction, mental illness and other VC-related competencies.
- 11) prior military service and /or prior documented experience representing mentally ill defendants preferred.

APPLICATIONS FOR TERM APPOINTMENTS: Attorneys shall submit their request for appointment no later than 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2011, for consideration of the assignment for the term beginning January of the following year. The V.C. team may conduct interviews of the qualified applicants.

Requests may be submitted to: **Mary Covington**

S.T.A.R. Program Manager

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