

**FAIR DEFENSE ACT**  
**APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES**  
**263<sup>rd</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 of the alternative plan adopted by the judges trying criminal cases in Harris County, the 263<sup>rd</sup> District Court will use a **combination method** of appointing attorneys that combines ***individual case and limited term*** appointment methods. Attorneys will be paid in accordance with the established fee schedule.

**INDIVIDUAL CASE APPOINTMENTS** (See *Standards and Procedures*): The Court will use the ***individual case*** method to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants as deemed necessary by the Court.

**LIMITED TERM APPOINTMENTS** (See *Standards and Procedures*):

**Weekly Appointments.** The Court will appoint one (1) ***limited term*** attorney each week to handle cases as needed.

**Daily Appointments.** The Court will also appoint ***limited term*** attorneys for one-day assignments as needed.

Appointments shall be made consistent with the attorney's qualifications and the needs of the Court. The Court shall appoint no more than five (5) new defendants a day to weekly and daily ***limited term*** attorneys.

**TERM APPOINTMENT** (See *Standards and Procedures*): The court will employ 2 (two) attorneys to work bi-weekly for a one-year ***term*** appointment. The attorney will be appointed to handle indigent defendants before the court except for capital cases and appeals.

The court will not appoint the ***term*** attorney more than five (5) new defendants a day. The ***term*** attorney will not carry a caseload of more than approximately thirty-five (35) indigent defendants' cases at any given time.

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

The establishment of a one-year (1) term and the specified conditions of appointment are intended by the Court to ensure the independence of any attorney selected for ***term*** appointment.

If a ***term*** attorney is terminated during the term, the Court will state its reasons for such action and will immediately begin accepting applications for a replacement attorney.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

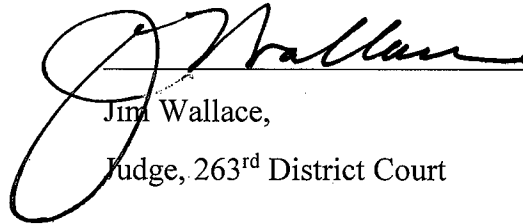
**Individual Case Appointments:** Attorneys selected for *individual case* appointments must meet the qualifications established by the Board of Judges and appropriate to the offense with which defendant is charged. See *Standards and Procedures*.

**Limited Term Appointments:** Attorneys selected for *limited term* appointments must meet the qualifications established by the Board of Judges and appropriate to the offense with which defendant is charged. See *Standards and Procedures*.

**Applications for Post-Conviction Term Appointments:** Attorneys shall submit their request for appointment to the Central Appointment Coordinator no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 16, 2016, for consideration for assignment for the term beginning January, 2017. See *Interim Standards and Procedures*.

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

11-4-16

  
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Jim Wallace,  
Judge, 263<sup>rd</sup> District Court