

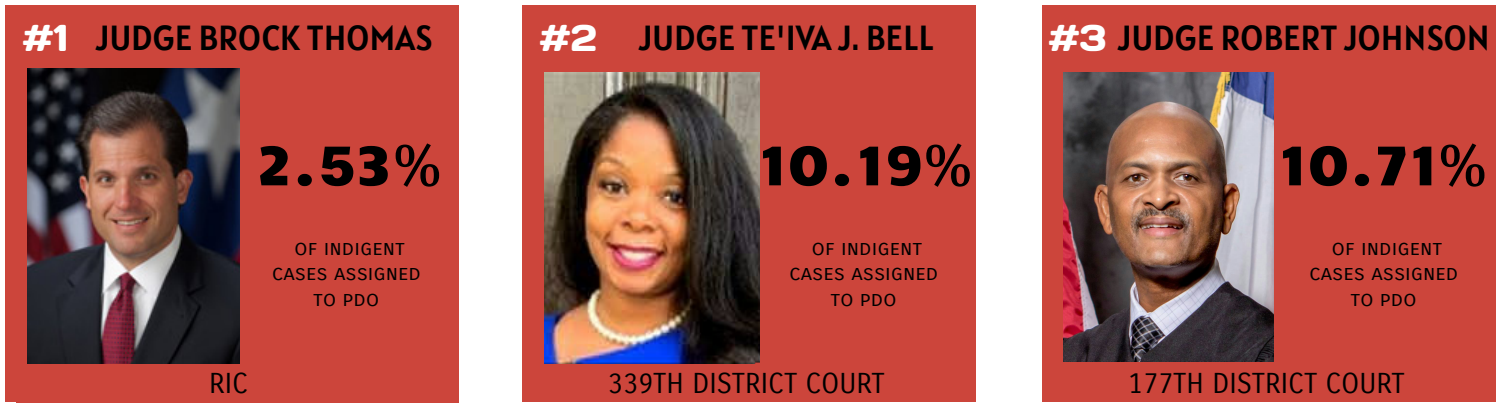
INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUITY

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

DECEMBER 2022



<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	<u>% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO</u>
4.	351ST	NATALIA "NATA" CORNELIO	10.81%
5.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	11.54%
6.	180TH	DASEAN JONES	12.28%
7.	174TH	HAZEL B. JONES	12.34%
8.	248TH	HILARY UNGER	12.70%
9.	482ND	MARITZA ANTU	13.89%
10.	176TH	NIKITA V. HARMON	14.07%
11.	185TH	JASON LUONG	14.88%
12.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	15.00%
13.	337TH	COLLEEN GAIDO	15.72%
14.	230TH	CHRIS MORTON	15.95%
15.	338TH	RAMONA FRANKLIN	16.00%
16.	228TH	FRANK AGUILAR	16.67%
17.	232ND	JOSH HILL	16.86%
18.	208TH	GREG GLASS	17.26%
19.	263RD	AMY MARTIN	18.94%
20.	184TH	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	19.23%
21.	209TH	BRIAN E WARREN	20.91%
22.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	21.58%
23.	178TH	KELLI JOHNSON	23.18%
24.	179TH	ANA MARTINEZ	27.85%

TOTAL PDO APPOINTMENT RATE 14.96%

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.