

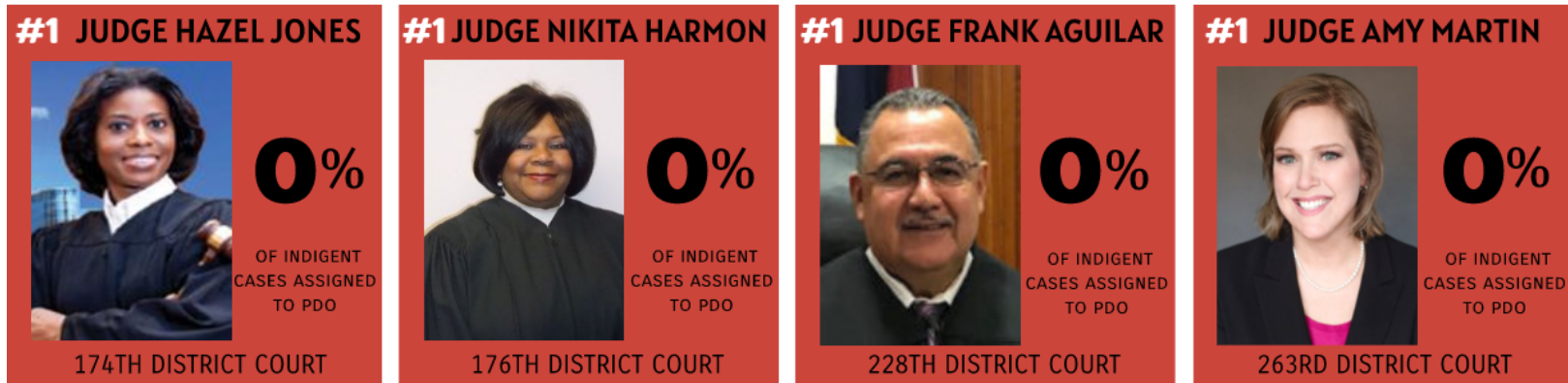
INDIGENT COUNSEL IN THE HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS

A REPORT BROUGHT TO YOU BY RESTORING JUSTICE AND THE TEXAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

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

SEPTEMBER 2020



<u>RANK</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>JUDGE</u>	<u>% OF INDIGENT CASES ASSIGNED TO PDO</u>
2.	177TH	ROBERT JOHNSON	0.64%
3.	179TH	RANDY ROLL	1.16%
4.	351ST	GEORGE POWELL	1.89%
5.	262ND	LORI CHAMBERS GRAY	1.90%
6.	RIC	BROCK THOMAS	2.45%
7.	180TH	DASEAN JONES	2.92%
8.	230TH	CHRIS MORTON	4.38%
9.	338TH	RAMONA FRANKLIN	5.65%
10.	178TH	KELLI JOHNSON	5.95%
11.	208TH	GREG GLASS	7.48%
12.	232ND	JOSH HILL	8.72%
13.	209TH	BRIAN WARREN	10.61%
14.	248TH	HILARY UNGER	10.65%
15.	184TH	ABIGAIL ANASTASIO	12.95%
16.	339TH	JESSE MCCLURE	13.02%
17.	183RD	CHUCK SILVERMAN	15.09%
18.	185TH	JASON LUONG	18.54%
19.	182ND	DANILO LACAYO	24.02%
20.	337TH	HERB RITCHIE	33.54%

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.