



# Indigent Defense Workshop:

## *Preview of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature and Recent Developments*

Please join the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and guests as we review recent developments and consider future opportunities to improve the state's indigent defense system. **Judge Sharon Keller** and **Jim Bethke** of the Commission will discuss the Commission's Legislative Appropriations Request and other recent developments. **Dr. Ana Yanez-Correa** will discuss the impact state funding is having in local jurisdictions. **Vikrant Reddy** will review his recent report "Policy Perspective: Improving Indigent Defense in Texas." **Andrea Marsh** will review her organization's role and activities to improve indigent defense in Texas. **Jim Allison** will then provide a preview of the upcoming legislative session. The Workshop will wrap up with a Q&A session with all the presenters. County officials, members of the judiciary, legislators, legislative staff, attorneys and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Note: 1.5 hours CLE credit approved by State Bar of Texas (course no. 901257409; to receive credit report attendance online at [www.texasbar.com/mcle](http://www.texasbar.com/mcle)).

When: **Tuesday, November 13 at 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Where: [Capitol Extension Auditorium, 1100 Congress, Austin](#) Here is [parking information](#) for the venue.

### AGENDA:

- 9:30 – 10:00 Registration in front of auditorium
- 10:00 – 10:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- 10:10 – 10:30 Preview of 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature: Legislative Appropriations Request –  
Presiding Judge Sharon Keller, Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission  
Jim Bethke, Executive Director, Texas Indigent Defense Commission
- 10:30 – 10:50 Preview of 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature: How State funding is making a difference –  
Dr. Ana Yanez-Correa, Executive Director, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition
- 10:50 – 11:10 "Policy Perspective: Improving Indigent Defense in Texas" –  
Vikrant P. Reddy, Policy Analyst, Center for Effective Justice, Texas Public Policy Foundation
- 11:10 – 11:30 Role of External Advocates in Improving Indigent Defense –  
Andrea Marsh, Executive Director, Texas Fair Defense Project
- 11:30 – 11:50 Concluding Thoughts on the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature –  
James P. Allison, General Counsel, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas
- 11:50 – noon Question and Answer with the Panel

Please visit the Commission website after the workshop for links to materials (and a link will also be available to an mp3 download/digital audio recording of the workshop). Website: [www.txcourts.gov/tidc](http://www.txcourts.gov/tidc). Look under "What's New."



TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

209 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Price Daniel Building, Room 202  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512-936-6994; fax: 512-463-5724  
[www.txcourts.gov/tidc](http://www.txcourts.gov/tidc)

**OFFICERS:**

Honorable Sharon Keller Chair – Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals  
Honorable Olen Underwood Vice-Chair – Presiding Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Judicial Region of Texas

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

Honorable Sharon Keller Austin, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals  
Honorable Wallace B. Jefferson Austin, Chief Justice, Supreme Court  
Honorable Roberto Alonzo Dallas, State Representative  
Honorable Pete Gallego Alpine, State Representative  
Honorable Jeff Wentworth San Antonio, State Senator  
Honorable John Whitmire Houston, State Senator

**MEMBERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR:**

Honorable Jon Burrows Temple, Bell County Judge  
Mr. Knox Fitzpatrick Dallas, Attorney, Fitzpatrick, Hagood, Smith & Uhl  
Mr. Anthony Odiorne Burnet, Assistant Public Defender, Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases  
Honorable Sherry Radack Houston, Chief Justice, First Court of Appeals  
Honorable Olen Underwood Conroe, Presiding Judge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Administrative Judicial Region of Texas  
Honorable Laura Weiser Victoria, County Court at Law #1  
Honorable B. Glen Whitley Hurst, Tarrant County Judge

**STAFF:**

|                    |                                     |          |  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--|
| James D. Bethke    | Executive Director                  | 936-6994 | <a href="mailto:jim.bethke@txcourts.gov">jim.bethke@txcourts.gov</a>                 |
| Edwin Colfax       | Project Manager                     | 463-2508 | <a href="mailto:edwin.colfax@txcourts.gov">edwin.colfax@txcourts.gov</a>             |
| Carol Conner       | Fiscal Monitor                      | 936-7561 | <a href="mailto:carol.conner@txcourts.gov">carol.conner@txcourts.gov</a>             |
| Dominic Gonzales   | Grant Program Specialist            | 463-2573 | <a href="mailto:dominic.gonzales@txcourts.gov">dominic.gonzales@txcourts.gov</a>     |
| Marissa Kubinski   | Administrative Assistant            | 936-6994 | <a href="mailto:marissa.kubinski@txcourts.gov">marissa.kubinski@txcourts.gov</a>     |
| Joel Lieurance     | Policy Monitor                      | 936-7560 | <a href="mailto:joel.lieurance@txcourts.gov">joel.lieurance@txcourts.gov</a>         |
| Wesley Shackelford | Deputy Director/Special Counsel     | 936-6997 | <a href="mailto:wesley.shackelford@txcourts.gov">wesley.shackelford@txcourts.gov</a> |
| Terri Tuttle       | Executive Assistant/Project Manager | 463-8015 | <a href="mailto:terri.tuttle@txcourts.gov">terri.tuttle@txcourts.gov</a>             |
| Sharon Whitfield   | Budget and Accounting Analyst       | 936-6998 | <a href="mailto:sharon.whitfield@txcourts.gov">sharon.whitfield@txcourts.gov</a>     |
| Bryan Wilson       | Grants Administrator                | 936-6996 | <a href="mailto:bryan.wilson@txcourts.gov">bryan.wilson@txcourts.gov</a>             |
| Andrew Bluebond    | Legal Intern                        | 936-7551 | <a href="mailto:andrew.bluebond@txcourts.gov">andrew.bluebond@txcourts.gov</a>       |
| Brad Estes         | Legal Intern                        | 463-2889 | <a href="mailto:brad.estes@txcourts.gov">brad.estes@txcourts.gov</a>                 |

*Mission Statement*

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission provides financial and technical support to counties to develop and maintain quality, cost-effective indigent defense systems that meet the needs of local communities and the requirements of the Constitution and state law.

## Speaker bios



**The Honorable Sharon Keller** Sharon Keller was first elected to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 1994. She was elected Presiding Judge in 2000 and re-elected to that position in 2006. She is the first woman to have served on the Court. A native Texan, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Rice University in 1975 and her Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1978. Presiding Judge Keller is chairman of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and she is on the board of the Council of State Governments Justice Center. She is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and a member of the Judicial Advisory Council to the Community Justice Assistance Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. By virtue of her office, she is vice-chair of the Texas Judicial Council. In 2003 Presiding Judge Keller received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service from the SMU Dedman School of Law.



**Jim Bethke** serves as the Executive Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission formerly called the Task Force on Indigent Defense. The Commission is charged with implementing a statewide system of standards, financing and other resources for criminal defendants unable to hire attorneys. He is also an ex-officio member Governor Perry's Criminal Justice Advisory Council and a member of the Texas Criminal Justice Integrity Unit. Nationally, he serves on the Indigent Defense Advisory Group for the ABA Standing Committee for Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and is a member of the National Research & Data Analysis Committee for the National Legal Aid & Defenders Association. He is a past-chair of the Juvenile Law Exam Commission for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a Texas Bar Foundation Life Fellow. He is a U.S. Army veteran from the 101st Airborne Division, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler and the Texas Tech University law school.



**Dr. Ana Yanez-Correa** is the executive director of the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition. Yáñez-Correa has been the executive director of TCJC since 2005, though she also serves as the project director for TCJC's Solutions for Sentencing & Incarceration Project, the Tools for Re-Entry Project and the Juvenile Justice Initiative.



**Vikrant P. Reddy** is a policy analyst in the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, where he coordinates the Right On Crime campaign. He has authored several reports on criminal justice policy and is a frequent speaker and media commentator on the topic. Reddy has worked as a research assistant at The Cato Institute, as a law clerk to the Honorable Gina M. Benavides of the Thirteenth Court of Appeals of Texas, and as an attorney in private practice, focusing on trial and appellate litigation. Reddy graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Plan II Honors, Economics, and History, and he earned his law degree at the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in Dallas. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas and of the State Bar's Appellate Section and Criminal Justice Section.



**Andrea Marsh** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP). TFDP is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the fairness of Texas's criminal courts and ensure that all Texans have access to justice. TFDP focuses on improving the public defense system and challenging policies that create modern-day debtors' prisons filled with poor people who cannot afford to pay commercial bond fees and post-conviction fines and costs. Ms. Marsh is a graduate of Tulane University and Yale Law School. After graduating from law school, she clerked for the Honorable Keith P. Ellison of the United States District Court in Laredo, Texas. Ms. Marsh has been awarded

several prestigious national public interest fellowships, including the Liman Public Interest Fellowship (2002-2003, Yale Law School), the Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship (2004-2006, Open Society Institute), and the Wasserstein Public Interest Fellowship (2005-2006, Harvard Law School). She was the youngest recipient of Texas Lawyer magazine's Extraordinary Women in Texas Law Award in 2008, and in 2009 she received the Texas Law Fellowship's Excellence in Public Interest Award. She is a member of the Oversight Board for the West Texas Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases, and served on the study group that developed the proposal for the Harris County Public Defender Office. She also chaired the subcommittee that drafted the State Bar of Texas's Performance Guidelines for Non-Capital Criminal Defense Representation.



**James P. Allison** was born in Paris, Texas, on January 16, 1947. He received his Bachelor's Degree in 1967 and Master's Degree in 1968 in government from East Texas State University. In 1971, Allison received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the University of Texas School of Law. In 1972, he was elected County Attorney of Delta County, Texas, and served in this capacity until 1979. In 1979, Attorney General Mark White appointed Allison to serve as Chief of the County and Local Government Section in the Office of the Attorney General. Allison returned to private practice in Austin, Texas in 1983 and serves as the Senior Partner in the law firm of Allison, Bass, and Associates LLP. He is licensed to appear in state courts, all

federal district courts in Texas, the fifth and eleventh circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U. S. Supreme Court. He regularly lectures at seminars for local government officials at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the V. G. Young Institute of County Government. Allison currently serves as General Counsel of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas. His father was a County Commissioner in Delta County, Texas.