



TEXAS INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

209 W. 14th St., Room 202
Austin, Texas 78701

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Contact: Marissa Kubinski
512-936-6994

Lubbock County, Dickens County, and Texas Tech University School of Law Recognized for Major Indigent Defense Improvements

Austin – The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) will award the Texas Gideon Recognition to Lubbock County, Dickens County, and the Texas Tech University School of Law for outstanding commitment to improving indigent defense locally and across the State of Texas. Specifically, Lubbock County is receiving the *Gideon* award for establishing the Regional Public Defender Office for Capital Cases and the Lubbock Private Defender Office. Dickens County and Texas Tech University School of Law are being honored together for establishing the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office. Lubbock County and Dickens County established these programs with grant funding provided by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases

In 2008, Lubbock County established the Regional Public Defender’s Office for Capital Cases (RPDO). Through the RPDO, Texas counties have the opportunity to participate in a capital defense system that provides quality defense representation, budget predictability, and cost-efficiency. The RPDO has been hailed as the first of its kind and has been recognized nationally by the National Association of Counties.

Lubbock Private Defender Office

In 2012 Lubbock County implemented the state’s first countywide managed assigned counsel system (MAC). Known locally as the Lubbock Private Defender Office (LPDO), the LPDO provides greater independence for the county’s selection and payment of defense counsel. The LPDO also provides mentoring and training for panel attorneys.

Caprock Regional Public Defender Office and Texas Tech University School of Law

Dickens County has helped to improve indigent defense for over sixteen rural counties by serving in a leadership role for the creation of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office. The CRPDO provides access to zealous indigent defense representation in a manner that is more cost effective for communities that lack access to local attorneys to accept court appointments.

As a part of the Commission’s Recognition of Dickens County, the Texas Tech University School of Law will also receive a Gideon Award for its role helping to establish and operate the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office. The CRPDO has been operated through an agreement between participating counties and Texas Tech University. In addition to providing defense services for rural counties, the program has trained over 36 law students thru its unique relationship with Texas Tech University School of Law.

About the Gideon Recognition Program: 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* affirming the right to an attorney for poor defendants. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission established the Texas Gideon Recognition Program to commend local governments that demonstrate a strong commitment to indigent defense and develop programs that meet a high standard of performance. More information is available at <http://tidc.texas.gov/resources/publications/general/awards-recognition/texas-gideon-recognition.aspx>

[Link to Photos](#)

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