

*Texas Gideon
Recognition Program
for Texas Counties*



TIDC staff recommends that Montgomery County receive special recognition for its contract with attorneys representing juvenile defendants.

In an effort to ensure high quality representation for juveniles, the Montgomery County Judges and Juvenile Board awarded a contract for the representation of juveniles to three attorneys who were Board Certified in Juvenile Law. The three are all experienced trial attorneys and experienced appellate attorneys. The contract award was not made on the basis of the lowest bid, but rather on the basis of the persons most able to provide superior representation to juveniles. According to local officials, the Contract Defender attorneys have been innovative in suggesting and utilizing using varied approaches and/or alternatives to the detention of juveniles. The Juvenile Prosecutors and Judge have been willing to consider and utilize these alternatives. As a result of this approach, according to an internal examination of data, the number of juveniles in detention has been reduced, and the number of days juveniles spend in detention has been reduced.