



Administrative Office of the District Courts
Harris County, Texas

The Honorable Susan Brown
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE, CRIMINAL DIVISION

1201 Franklin, 7th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 755-6575

The Honorable Catherine Evans
CHAIR, FAIR DEFENSE ACT COMMITTEE

March 15, 2017

Joel Lieurance
Senior Policy Analyst
Texas Indigent Defense Committee

Re: Response to Comments and Requests for Additional Information Related to
Harris County's Response to the TIDC's Monitoring Report

Dear Mr. Lieurance,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide further information regarding the Texas Indigent Defense Commission Monitoring Review.

The Harris County District Judges Trying Criminal Cases offer the following response to the monitor's request for a list of all felony cases disposed during FY2014 (October 2013 – September 2014) in which an appointment of counsel was made in the interest of justice without a determination of indigence.

Currently our data collection does not include capturing this information. We would have to manually look at tens of thousands of cases to determine in which cases appointments were made in the interest of justice. To resolve this issue moving forward, the felony district judges will be voting in April on a new appointment of counsel form that will include designating when an attorney is appointed in the interest of justice as well as whether the appointment is based on a determination of indigency. The Board of Judges Trying Felony Cases has a committee working on updates to the Harris County Alternative Plan that will include requiring separate determinations for indigency and the interests of justice as well as other policies and procedures recommended by the monitoring report. Our goal is to have a new plan submitted for approval by June 2017.

If you need any further information, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Bowman".

Clay Bowman