

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 23-9096

Renewed Emergency Order Regarding Indigent Defense and the Border Security State of Disaster Permitting Out-of-State Lawyers to Practice in Texas Temporarily

ORDERED that:

1. The Court's Renewed Emergency Order Regarding Indigent Defense and the Border Security State of Disaster Permitting Out-of-State Lawyers to Practice in Texas Temporarily, Misc. Dkt. No. 22-9105, is renewed as amended.

2. To protect the constitutionally and statutorily guaranteed right to counsel of indigent criminal defendants, and pursuant to Section 81.061 of the Texas Government Code, and notwithstanding Chapter 81, Subchapter G, an attorney who is licensed to practice law in another U.S. jurisdiction and who meets the following criteria is permitted to practice law in Texas:

a. the attorney is in good standing and authorized to practice law with the entity that governs the practice of law in the jurisdiction in which the attorney is licensed;

b. the attorney agrees to abide by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and to submit to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Texas and the State Bar of Texas;

c. the attorney is providing services as an employee of a public defender office or through a managed assigned counsel program to indigent defendants arrested for misdemeanor offenses under Operation Lone Star launched by Governor Abbott on March 6, 2021, and is on the alternative appointment list established by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission or its designee under Renewed Emergency Order Regarding Indigent Defense and Border Security State of Disaster, Misc. Dkt. No. 23-9086, or prior or subsequent renewal orders;

d. the attorney registers to provide services at www.texasbar.com/SCOTEO229007 before providing services under this Order; and

e. by March 1, 2024 or within 90 days after registering under (d), whichever is later, the attorney applies with the Texas Board of Law Examiners to be admitted to practice law in Texas.

3. This Order expires on December 1, 2024, unless extended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. But an attorney may complete after December 1, 2024, any ongoing services commenced before December 1, 2024.

4. The Clerk of the Supreme Court is directed to:

a. post a copy of this Order on www.txcourts.gov;

b. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State; and

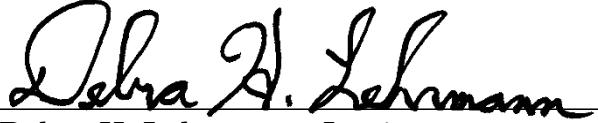
c. send a copy of this Order to the Governor, the Attorney General, and each member of the Legislature.

5. The State Bar of Texas is directed to take all reasonable steps to notify members of the Texas bar of this Order and to create and maintain the website for attorneys to register under this Order.

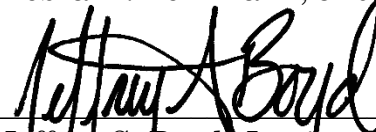
Dated: November 17, 2023.



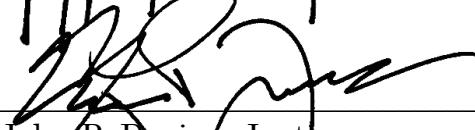
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



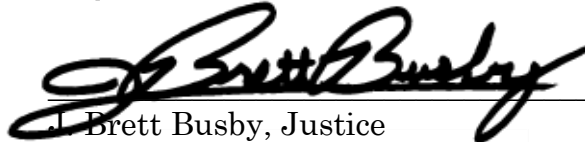
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



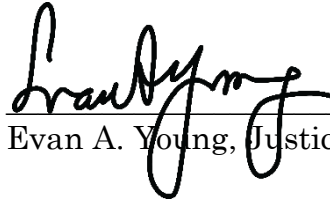
J. Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice



Evan A. Young, Justice