



CHAIR:
The Honorable Sharon Keller
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal
Appeals

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:
Honorable Sharon Keller
Honorable Nathan Hecht
Honorable John Whitmire
Honorable Brandon Creighton
Honorable Joseph "Joe" Moody
Honorable Andrew Murr
Honorable Sherry Radack
Honorable Vivian Torres

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR:
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Honorable Jon Burrows
Honorable Richard Evans
Mr. Don Hase
Honorable Missy Medary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Geoffrey Burkhart

Report from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) for the September 14, 2018 Texas Judicial Council Meeting

Here is a brief report on TIDC's recent work. If you would like additional information, please contact **Executive Director Geoff Burkhart**: (512) 936-6999 or gburkhart@tidc.texas.gov.

TIDC Board and Committee Meetings

The TIDC [Policies and Standards Committee](#) met August 15th to discuss recent policy monitoring, proposed legislative recommendations, and specialty court monitoring. The [Full Board](#) met August 30th to discuss recent policy monitoring, complaints, technical support grants, and proposed legislative recommendations.



86th Legislature

TIDC has submitted its legislative appropriations request (LAR) to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Governor's Office.

- TIDC's only exceptional item is the restoration of estimated appropriation authority. TIDC is also requesting one rider revision, which would remove one of the FTE caps to which TIDC is subject.



- Geoff Burkhart presented TIDC's budget at a Joint Budget Hearing on August 30th.

- TIDC's Board also approved 6 legislative proposals for the 86th Legislature. Prior to Board approval, the proposals were vetted by an external review committee, TIDC staff, a 28-member legislative workgroup, and TIDC's Policies and Standards Committee.

Staff Update

In addition to its normal monitoring, grants administration, and data collection, TIDC staff has been involved in the following:

- TIDC recently improved its policy monitoring reporting, fiscal monitoring reporting, and complaints intake processes.
- TIDC is working with the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD) to bring its nationwide Executive Leadership Institute to Texas in fall 2019.
- On Monday, July 23rd, the State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters Committee presented Scott Ehlers with the Michael K. Moore Award, which recognizes an individual or organization for exceptional research or writing that deals with indigent criminal defense and that represents a significant contribution to the knowledge and practices of the bench, bar, and scholarly communities.
- On August 3rd, Joel Lieurance and Scott Ehlers presented on appointment of counsel, mental health assessments, and personal bond at the Texas Municipal Courts Association Conference in San Antonio.
- On August 21st, Geoff Burkhart presented at the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies' 46th Annual Conference and Training Institute in Fort Worth.
- On August 23rd, Geoff Burkhart testified at the [House Committee on County Affairs Hearing](#) in Dallas.
- On August 27th, Geoff Burkhart presented about indigent defense coordinators at the Navarro County Commissioner's Court.
- On August 30th, Geoff Burkhart and Scott Ehlers presented, "The Indigent Defense Mandate: Where Do We Go from Here?" at the [TAC Legislative Conference](#).
- TIDC staff have attended several presentations and training sessions, including TCDLA's Rusty Duncan Public Defender Training Seminar in San Antonio, the State Bar of Texas's 44th Annual Advanced Criminal Law CLE, the National Forum on Criminal Justice in Fort Worth, a magistration training session at Texas State's Round Rock Campus, the State Auditor's Office 2017 Audit Conference at UT, and the Lubbock Private Defender's Office Mentoring Project training session.
- TIDC delivered technical assistance to Bexar County and the Lubbock Private Defender's Office.
- In late-July, TIDC met with representatives of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) to assess TIDC's monitoring, mentoring, and development practices.



Catherine Burnett and Scott Ehlers with the Michael K. Moore Award.

TIDC Workshops on Effective Post-Arrest and Indigent Defense Practices

This summer, The Texas Judicial Academy, a partnership between the Texas Association of Counties, the Texas Tech University School of Law, and the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, cosponsored a series of workshops on [Effective Post Arrest and Indigent Defense Practices](#) in McAllen (July 13), Longview (August 10), Abilene (August 22), and Lubbock (August 23). Participants included Justices of the Peace, County Judges, and county officials from across the state to discuss proper pretrial practices, magistration duties, and the challenges of implementing the Fair Defense Act Requirements with an emphasis on recent legislative updates.

Indigent Defense in the Media

[Public defender should be at all initial appearances](#) (July)

[Commissioners approve increased pay for court-appointed attorneys](#) (August)

[Dallas's "secret bail machine"](#) (August)