



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 Nicole Collier
Honorable Reggie Smith
Honorable Sherry Radack
Honorable Vivian Torres

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR:
Mr. Alex Bunin
Honorable Richard Evans
Mr. Gonzalo Rios
Honorable Missy Medary
Honorable Valerie Covey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Geoffrey Burkhart

Report from the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) for the September 30, 2022 Texas Judicial Council Meeting

Here is a report on TIDC's work from April 1—August 31. 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 Policy and Standards (P&S)

Committee met on [May 20](#). The TIDC Grants and Reporting (G&R) Committee met on [June 1](#). The TIDC Full Board met on [June 9](#) for updates from the P&S Committee and the G&R Committee, and to discuss Improvement Grant requests. The P&S Committee met on Tuesday,

[August 9](#) to discuss the upcoming legislative session. The TIDC Full Board met on [August 19](#) to discuss grant requests, P&S Committee recommendations, and legislative proposals. During the meeting, General Counsel for the County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas **James "Jim" Allison** was awarded the **2022 Robert O. Dawson Indigent Defense**



Distinguished Service Award. The Award honors the late Professor Robert O. Dawson's outstanding contributions to indigent defense. Jim has greatly improved indigent defense in Texas and remains an invaluable source of knowledge for TIDC. The next board meeting is on December 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the 1st floor conference room in the Tom C. Clark building.

TIDC at the Texas Legislature

On April 5, **Geoff Burkhart** testified at the [Senate Committee on Border Security](#) hearing with **Megan LaVoie**. On April 14, **Geoff** testified at the [House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee](#) hearing on the interim charge regarding indigent defense with **Megan LaVoie**. TIDC hosted the first meeting of the TIDC Legislative Workgroup in early June. The TIDC Board and staff gathered virtually in late-June for strategic planning for the upcoming legislative session. On July 12, **Geoff** testified on the Operation Lone Star interim charge at the [Senate Finance Committee](#) hearing. TIDC staff submitted its [Legislative Appropriations Request \(LAR\)](#) for the upcoming 88th Legislative Session in early August.



The TIDC Board and staff gathered virtually in late-June for strategic planning for the upcoming legislative session. On July 12, **Geoff** testified on the Operation Lone Star interim charge at the [Senate Finance Committee](#) hearing. TIDC staff submitted its [Legislative Appropriations Request \(LAR\)](#) for the upcoming 88th Legislative Session in early August.

Staff Update

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

- **Christian Bowne** joined the TIDC staff as a grants specialist for Operation Lone Star. This summer, TIDC was joined by four interns: **Caroline Perren**, **Kahlan Martin**, **Maralicia Martinez**, and **Trae Mauricio**. TIDC also said goodbye to Policy Analyst **Nicolas Sawyer** last month.
- TIDC staff has traveled to Archer, Bell, Bosque, Cameron, Clay, Comanche, Dickens, Fisher, Floyd, Galveston, Garza, Hidalgo, Mason, Midland, San Saba, Scurry, Wharton, and Wilbarger Counties for fiscal or policy monitoring visits.
- TIDC staff has issued final fiscal monitoring reports for [Bastrop](#), [Medina](#), [Karnes](#), and [Taylor](#) Counties.



- TIDC staff presented at several conferences and workshops, including the [Juvenile Training Immersion Program \(JTIP\)](#) on adolescent brain development in El Paso, the Texas Association of Counties' Spring Judicial Education Session in Lubbock on "Indigent Defense and Mental Health Issues," the [National Association for Public Defense's \(NAPD\) 2nd National Public Defense Virtual Conference](#), the [2022 Texas Tech Mental Health Law Symposium](#), [Gideon's Promise CORE 101](#) two-week training session in San Antonio, the University of Texas School of Law Children's Rights Clinic, the [Indigent Defense Research Association Conference](#), the [Texas Association of Pretrial Services Conference](#) in San Antonio, the [Justice Court Training Center](#), Brazil's [Defensoria Pública de Minas Gerais \(DPMG\) Public Defenders Week](#) 2022 program, the [35th Annual Rusty Duncan Criminal Law Course](#) in San Antonio, and the [Advanced Family Law Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop](#) in San Antonio.



- TIDC hosted regular Texas Chief Public Defender meetings and Indigent Defense Coordinator meet-ups.



- On April 15, **Geoff** and **Crystal Leff-Piñon** presented at the Texas Judicial Council Civil Justice Committee meeting.

- In April, TIDC staff gathered in Austin for 2 days of staff training and planning.

- Scott** testified at the [Nueces County Commissioners Court special meeting](#) on the mental health grant request.

- Debra Stewart** and **Crystal** hosted a zoom training webinar for County Auditors and Treasurers for the FY22 CPS Indigent Defense Expenditure Report.

- On May 13, TIDC board member **Alex Bunin** received an award from the State Bar of Texas.

- **Kathleen** guest lectured at St. Mary's University School of Law in early June.
- The [Formula Grant Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) is now available on our website.
- The [Indigent Defense Expenditure Report \(IDER\)](#) manual is now available on our website.



Indigent Defense in the Media

[New Concho Valley Public Defender's Office to open soon](#) (March)

[Travis County explores impact of legal representation during intake process](#) (April)

[Williamson County Commissioner Cook: Spotlight on transformative justice](#) (May)

[Governor Abbott Reappoints Three To Governing Board Of The Texas Indigent Defense Commission](#) (May)

[Bexar County criminal district courts seek state funds for mental health defense](#) (June)

[Nueces County receives state money to open public defenders office](#) (June)

[Finance Committee questions effectiveness of Operation Lone Star funding](#) (July)

[Public Defender Scarcity Worsens as COVID Slows Courts](#) (July)

[Sidebar with TCDLA Podcast, Ep. 10 - The State of Indigent Defense in Texas with Geoff Burkhart](#) (August)

[Brazos County receives grant to create a public defender's office and oversight board](#) (August)