

**Operation Lone Star Defense
Misdemeanor & Felony
Panel
Attorney Application**



The Lone Star Defenders Office is the indigent defense hub for Operation Lone Star. We appoint attorneys for those charged under the operation in various counties near the Texas-Mexico border. We also provide the attorneys with the necessary training and support to ensure that their clients receive the excellent representation that they deserve.

We have a misdemeanor panel and a felony panel. Before applying for either, you should review the Panel Attorney Job Description, Minimum Qualifications, and Attorney Duties and Responsibilities on our website: <https://www.olsdefense.org/get-involved>.

To apply, you must fill out this application and email it to jobs@lsdefense.org. You are encouraged to include a resume and writing sample with your application as well. If we want to move forward with your application, we will reach out to you for a zoom interview when the panel you're applying for is open.

Basic information

1. Name:
2. Email address:
3. Office phone number:
4. Office mailing address:
5. Cell number:
6. Law school attended & graduation year:
7. Bar admissions:

State	Bar Number	Date Licensed

8. Please list any languages you speak fluently other than English:

9. Do you need an interpreter for clients who speak Spanish?

10. Will anyone else from your law office assist you with Operation Lone Star cases (associate attorney, paralegal, receptionist, and so on)? Please list their names, roles, and Spanish-language fluency.

Employee name	Role	Spanish fluency

11. Can you describe what system you have in place to ensure that you're organized?

12. Have you been sanctioned or reprimanded by a state bar?
13. Have you ever been removed from an appointment list for cause?
14. Have you ever admitted, in connection with an official proceeding, to having provided ineffective assistance of counsel?
15. Have you ever been sanctioned for failure to appear before a court?
16. Have you ever been convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication for any offense other than a traffic offense?
17. If you answered yes to question 12 through 16, please explain and attach any relevant documentation.

Experience

18. Describe your current practice (types of cases, appointments in another jurisdiction, and so on):

19. If you have experience practicing criminal law, answer the following and whether your experience was as a defense attorney or prosecutor:
 - a. Number of years practicing criminal law:
 - b. Number of felony cases tried to verdict:
 - c. Number of misdemeanor cases tried to verdict:

20. If you have experience practicing criminal law not discussed previously, describe that experience (office/role, jurisdiction, types of cases handled, and so on).

21. Do you have any experience with immigration law or working with migrant populations? If so, explain.

22. Have you attended any intensive trial skills or criminal defense trainings? If so, please describe.

Operation Lone Star specific questions

23. We have two trial-level panels: a misdemeanor panel and a felony panel.

The misdemeanor panel mostly involves representing noncitizens charged with criminal trespass. Court proceedings are usually online. We currently appoint to cases charged in Maverick, Kinney, Webb, Jim Hogg, and Zapata counties. Travel to the border is typically no more than once every few months (though that is subject to change). Attorneys are expected to attend all in-person court hearings.

The felony panel mostly involves representing U.S. citizens charged with human smuggling. While some proceedings are online, most are in person. We appoint to cases charged in Maverick, Kinney, Val Verde, Jim Hogg, and Zavala counties. Travel to the border occurs at least once per month (though that is subject to change). Attorneys are expected to attend all in-person court hearings.

We compensate attorneys for their travel time.

Do you want to be considered for the misdemeanor panel, felony panel, or both?

24. Have you taken Operation Lone Star cases before? If so, describe. Have you been on one of our panels before (or are you currently on one of our panels)? If so, for how long and what panel?

25. About what percentage of your practice do you envision Operation Lone Star cases to be?

26. We require lawyers to commit to accepting cases for at least four months. About how long do you intend to serve on our panel?

27. How did you hear about our panel?

28. We are looking for people who are passionate about the work we do. Describe why you are interested in joining the Operation Lone Star panel.
29. Lawyers on our panel are assigned cases once every four weeks. We expect our lawyers to visit their clients within three business days of the appointment. These visits can take place via Zoom. Would you have any issue meeting this expectation?
30. We provide the lawyers on our panel access to a significant amount of resources, including access to LSDO staff that can help support your efforts. This frequently results in collaboration between the staff and the lawyer. Lawyers on the panel also often collaborate with each other. Do you have any experience working in that sort of environment? Do you like working in that sort of environment?
31. Operation Lone Star cases often present novel, complex, and interesting legal issues. Have you had experience litigating those sorts of issues? Submission of a copy of a motion, writ, or brief authored by you with this application is encouraged.

Acknowledgment

I am applying for admission to the Operation Lone Star panel appointment list as an independent contractor attorney. I certify that I meet the criteria described in the Operation Lone Star Panel Minimum Qualifications for the panel(s) for which I am applying. If I am selected for admission to the appointment list, I will sign and agree to fulfill the expectations outlined in the Operation Lone Star: Attorney Duties and Responsibilities. By my signature below, I swear or affirm that the information I have provided in this application is true, complete, and correct.

Attorney's Signature

Date