



Operation Lone Star Defense Panel Attorney

Thousands of people have been arrested near the Texas-Mexico border, most for misdemeanor trespass, under Operation Lone Star (OLS), Governor Abbott's border security program. Lubbock Private Defenders Office (LPDO), the indigent defense hub for OLS, is seeking attorneys to join the OLS Panel to defend these individuals.

Panel Attorneys are independent contractors and not employees of LPDO. They provide high quality, zealous representation to clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies. Panel Attorneys handle all stages and aspects of the case, from client visitation to pretrial motions, writs, negotiations, and trials.

LPDO works closely with Panel Attorneys and provides them with Client Advocates as well as access to interpreters, investigators, and *Padilla* advisals. LPDO's responsibilities include assignment of counsel, reviewing vouchers, providing training and resources, and monitoring quality of services rendered. For more information, visit www.olsdefense.org.

Ideal candidates are passionate about defense representation, can collaborate effectively with LPDO and other panel attorneys, and have strong organization and interpersonal skills to handle the large caseload and accompanying client/family communications and frequent court dockets.

Requirements & Expectations

- Licensed in Texas or any State and a member in good standing of State Bar. Not received any public disciplinary action by State Bar or any licensing authority within the last 5 years;
- Minimum of 2 years of experience practicing law or 1 year of experience practicing criminal law;
- Attend all OLS training hosted by LPDO, including the one-day OLS New Attorney Training program. Complete 8 hours of CLE in criminal law and procedure each year;
- Must commit to accepting new cases for at least 4 months;
- OLS cases should represent at least 50% of the attorney's caseload (75% or more preferred);
- Maintain an office capable of email, telephone, and Zoom videoconferences. Type and e-file all court documents. Contemporaneously record time on LPDO's case management program; and
- Spanish language fluency preferred but not required.

How Does Being on the OLS Panel Work?

- Panel Attorneys are on a rotation system and receive new cases one week per month -- up to 20 misdemeanor or 10 felony cases during that week. Client visits can occur via Zoom or in-person.
- Currently, misdemeanor hearings (other than trials) occur via Zoom. Felony hearings occur in-person. Depending on experience and travel abilities, attorneys can select whether they want to receive misdemeanor or felony cases, or both.
- Panel Attorneys must accept appointments from all counties involved in OLS.

Compensation

- Misdemeanors = \$75 per hour; State Jail, 3rd Degree, and 2nd Degree Felonies = \$85 per hour; 1st Degree Felonies = \$100 per hour.
- Expected to have 20 to 40 hours of work per week given the caseload.

To apply, visit www.olsdefense.org/get-involved