



Operation Lone Star – Defense Panel Attorney Minimum Qualifications

The Lone Star Defenders Office (LSDO) serves as the indigent defense hub for Operation Lone Star (OLS) pursuant to procedures created by the [Texas Indigent Defense Commission](#). The following minimum qualifications, which are subject to change, apply to attorneys seeking to join the OLS felony and misdemeanor panel appointment list.

All Appointments

1. Maintain an office capable of email, telephone and videoconference/Zoom calls;
2. Have the ability to produce typed motions/orders, and e-file court documents;
3. Have the ability to contemporaneously record time on LSDO's case management program;
4. Not received any public disciplinary action by the State Bar or any licensing authority within the last 5 years;
5. Complete a minimum of 8 hours of CLE in the area of criminal law and procedure each year and attend all mandatory OLS trainings hosted by LSDO;
6. Commit to accepting new cases for at least 4 months;
7. Have the ability to travel for court hearings, investigation, client visits; and
8. Maintain an overall practice caseload, including with OLS appointments, that is in accordance with TIDC's caseload guidelines.

In addition to the above, attorneys must meet the following case-specific qualifications:

Misdemeanor Case Appointments

1. Licensed in Texas or any State and a member in good standing of the State Bar; out-of-state attorneys must apply to be admitted in Texas by March 1, 2024 under [Supreme Court Order 23-9096](#), effective until December 1, 2024;
2. Minimum 2 years experience practicing law or 1 year experience practicing criminal law; and
3. Spanish language fluency preferred but not required.

Felony Case Appointments

1. Licensed in Texas and a member in good standing of the State Bar;
2. Minimum 2 years experience practicing criminal law, or be an exceptional candidate with at least six months of experience on LSDO's misdemeanor panel. LSDO may require supervision and/or co-counseling on cases for attorneys who lack significant experience.
3. Trial and felony experience preferred but not required. If attorney has not tried at least 2 felony cases to verdict as lead counsel before a jury, LSDO will require an experienced attorney to co-counsel trials.