



Operation Lone Star Defense Panel Attorney – Felonies

Thousands of people have been arrested near the Texas-Mexico border under Operation Lone Star (OLS), Governor Abbott’s border initiative. In OLS, the State charges individuals mostly with misdemeanor criminal trespass or felony human smuggling. The Lubbock Private Defenders Office (LPDO)—the indigent defense hub for OLS—is seeking attorneys to join the OLS Felony Panel.

Panel Attorneys are independent contractors and not LPDO employees. Panel Attorneys are on a rotation system and receive new cases one week per month, up to 12 felonies during that week. Panel Attorneys will represent individuals charged in Jim Hogg, Kinney, Val Verde, and Maverick County. These proceedings are mostly in-person, requiring a willingness to travel. Typically, attorneys travel to the counties up to 2 times per month for court proceedings. Detained clients can be visited through Zoom.

LPDO works closely with Panel Attorneys and provides them with client advocates, resource attorneys, interpreters, and investigators. 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 skills to handle the large caseload. Most importantly, we are looking for people who can provide high quality, zealous representation. This includes filing motions and writs where appropriate. It also includes prompt initial visits and staying in regular contact with clients.

Requirements & Expectations

- You must be licensed in Texas. You cannot have received any public disciplinary action by State Bar or any licensing authority within the last 5 years.
- You must have at least two years of experience practicing criminal law. Trial experience is preferred. If you lack significant experience, LPDO may require an experienced attorney to co-counsel a trial-bound case.
- You must attend all OLS training hosted by LPDO and complete 8 hours of CLE in criminal law and procedure each year.
- You must commit to accepting new cases for at least 4 months.
- OLS cases should represent at least 50% of your caseload (75% or more preferred).
- You must maintain an office capable of email, telephone, and Zoom videoconferences.
- You must contemporaneously record time on LPDO’s case management program.

Compensation

- 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 based on the Texas Indigent Defense Commission’s caseload guidelines.

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