



Operation Lone Star Defense Panel Attorney – Misdemeanors (mostly remote work)

Thousands of people have been arrested near the Texas-Mexico border under Operation Lone Star (OLS), Governor Abbott’s border initiative. Most have been charged with committing criminal trespass, a misdemeanor. The Lubbock Private Defenders Office (LPDO)—the indigent defense hub for OLS—is seeking attorneys to join the OLS Misdemeanor Panel to defend these individuals.

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 20 misdemeanors during that week. Panel Attorneys will represent individuals charged in Jim Hogg, Kinney, Val Verde, Maverick, Webb, and Zapata counties. These proceedings mostly take place over Zoom, though travel for in-person court can occur up to once a month. Detained clients can be visited through Zoom.

LPDO works 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.

We pay \$100 an hour for misdemeanor appointments. We also compensate you for any travel time.

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 a Texas-based office.
- You must have at least two years of experience practicing law or one year of experience practicing criminal law.
- 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). In our experience, individuals with large side practices struggle in OLS.
- You must maintain an office capable of email, telephone, and Zoom videoconferences.
- You must contemporaneously record time on LPDO’s case management program.
- Spanish speakers preferred but not required.

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