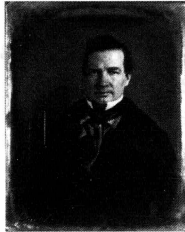
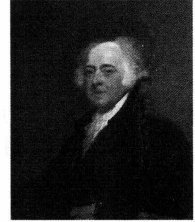


You have the right to an attorney

The United States and Texas Constitutions guarantee the right to counsel.

The right to counsel is core to our democracy.

The right to counsel in America was born when John Adams successfully represented 8 British soldiers following the Boston Massacre. Adams called it, "one o the best Pieces of Service I e ver rendered my Country."

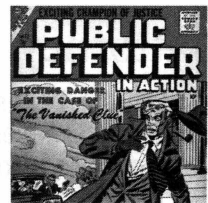


And rooted in Texas history.

Texas founders, like Thomas Jefferson Rusk and David Gouverneur Burnet, provided counsel to people arrested on murder charges, even when they couldn't afford counsel.

Texas pioneered public defender offices.

In 1914, Texas businessmen created one of the nation's first public defender offices to protect workers on their ranches from government overreach.



And the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

In 2001, the Texas Legislature created the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and charged it with funding, overseeing, and improving indigent defense in Texas.



Texans care about safeguarding liberty.

Criminal convictions can take you from your home, your family, your work, and your community. Attorneys are the greatest safeguard we have against government overreach.

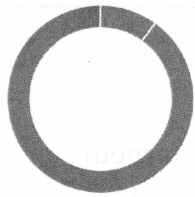
Let's end justice by geography

Texas is failing Texans and violating the Constitution by underfunding indigent defense.

Texas is 46th in the nation in indigent defense funding.

46th

Texas is 46th in per capita funding. The national per capita average is \$20. Texas spends just \$13 per capita. And 6 counties spend just \$1 per capita.



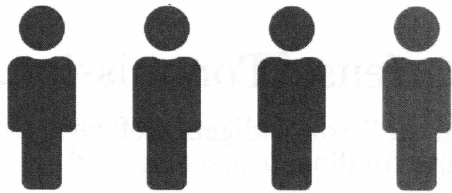
The State funds 10%.

The State of Texas funds less than 10% of the cost of indigent defense. Texas' 254 counties shoulder the other 90%. That means that the quality of your representation and even whether you get an attorney often depends on a county line.

In violation of the Constitution, some don't get an attorney.

0%

Last year, 14 Texas counties had a 0% appointment rate inailable misdemeanor cases. That means that in those 14 counties, if you weren't able to afford a lawyer, you didn't get one.



We've lost 1/4th of our rural defense attorneys.

Over the past decade, while the number of felonies charged in rural Texas has risen, the number of rural criminal defense lawyers has dropped by 27%.

Help Texas build Public Defender Offices.

Close the \$200 million funding gap by raising Texas' indigent defense budget by an additional \$50 million each year for four years. TIDC should use the funds to build accountable, effective, and efficient public defender offices.

