

The Status of Indigent Criminal Defense in Texas:

A Survey of Texas Judges

(Note: n = number of valid responses)

When answering questions in this survey, please refer to typical criminal law experiences in your court.
PLEASE EXCLUDE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH CAPITAL CASES.

We would like to begin by asking you a few questions about the process of appointing attorneys to represent indigent defendants.

1. How do defense lawyers typically receive their court appointed assignments in your court? (Check one) (n=467)

- 65.7% I make the decision of whom to appoint either directly or by a schedule or roster I have established
- 10.5% A clerk, coordinator, or other administrative personnel of the court makes the appointment decision
- 1.7% Lawyers affirmatively volunteer
- 22.1% Other (Please specify) Comments not yet available

2. If you are directly involved in the process of appointing attorneys for indigent defendants, would you prefer to be removed? (n=437)

- 7.6% Yes
- 86.0% No
- 6.4% Unsure

3. What influence does each of the following individuals exert in the decision as to whom to appoint as defense counsel in your court? (Check all that apply)

	Substantial	Moderate	Some	None	
a. Court Reporter	0.9%	2.0%	8.3%	88.5%	(n=444)
b. Individual Court Clerks	1.1%	1.6%	10.8%	86.5%	(n=444)
c. District Attorneys	0.0%	1.6%	9.5%	88.9%	(n=444)
d. Court Coordinator	14.7%	14.4%	25.2%	45.7%	(n=457)

4. Does your court maintain a list of lawyers who accept court appointed assignments? (Check one) (n=455)

- 85.5% Yes
- 14.5% No → Please skip to question 6

5. How does a lawyer become included on this list? (Check one) (n=391)

- 10.5% All lawyers are included
- 11.5% Affirmatively volunteer
- 65.0% Affirmatively volunteer and be determined qualified by the court
- 13.0% Other (Please specify) Comments not yet available

6. Do you require attorneys that you appoint to participate in continuing legal education (CLE)? (n=441)

41.7% Yes
58.3% No

7. Generally thinking of judges you may know, what influence does each of the following have in the appointment decision in their court? (Check all that apply)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	
a. Difficulty of the case	33.1%	47.3%	18.5%	0.9%	0.2%	(n=438)
b. Defendant's need for specialized knowledge or skill (e.g., a mental illness or retardation issue or a similar unusual need)	19.3%	51.4%	25.0%	3.7%	0.7%	(n=436)
c. Attorney's degree of knowledge and experience	24.0%	51.0%	21.7%	2.7%	0.5%	(n=437)
d. Attorney's reputation for moving cases, regardless of the quality of defense	2.5%	12.9%	31.0%	31.5%	22.1%	(n=435)
e. Attorney's reputation for moving cases, but consistent with a quality defense	10.6%	43.8%	34.0%	7.4%	4.2%	(n=432)
f. The attorney is their friend	0.7%	6.2%	32.6%	25.6%	34.9%	(n=433)
g. The attorney is one of their political supporters	0.7%	5.6%	28.9%	21.1%	43.8%	(n=432)
h. The attorney contributed to their campaign	0.7%	3.7%	25.9%	23.1%	46.6%	(n=429)
i. Attorney's expressed desire to be appointed	9.7%	43.9%	37.7%	4.4%	4.4%	(n=435)
j. To give attorney courtroom experience	0.9%	4.8%	56.0%	25.9%	12.4%	(n=436)
k. Attorney's need for income	0.7%	4.6%	47.1%	26.7%	20.9%	(n=435)
l. A retired or semi-retired attorney who uses appointments to supplement retirement funds	0.5%	0.9%	22.9%	34.0%	45.1%	(n=428)

8. What influence does each of the following have in the appointment decision in YOUR court? (Check all that apply)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	
a. Difficulty of the case	44.7%	38.7%	15.1%	0.7%	0.9%	(n=450)
b. Defendant's need for specialized knowledge or skill (e.g., a mental illness or retardation issue or a similar unusual need)	31.9%	43.8%	20.7%	2.2%	1.3%	(n=445)
c. Attorney's degree of knowledge and experience	34.5%	49.0%	15.4%	0.4%	0.7%	(n=449)
d. Attorney's reputation for moving cases, regardless of the quality of defense	2.5%	7.9%	13.1%	25.5%	51.1%	(n=444)
e. Attorney's reputation for moving cases, but consistent with a quality defense	10.8%	37.1%	33.7%	10.3%	8.1%	(n=445)
f. The attorney is your friend	0.0%	0.9%	20.5%	23.5%	54.9%	(n=448)
g. The attorney is one of your political supporters	0.0%	0.7%	12.8%	14.9%	71.6%	(n=444)
h. The attorney contributed to your campaign	0.0%	0.7%	10.6%	13.1%	75.7%	(n=444)
i. Attorney's expressed desire to be appointed	14.1%	33.0%	38.6%	8.3%	6.1%	(n=446)
j. To give attorney courtroom experience	0.9%	4.2%	48.7%	25.0%	21.2%	(n=448)
k. Attorney's need for income	0.9%	1.8%	39.5%	25.1%	32.7%	(n=446)
l. A retired or semi-retired attorney who uses appointments to supplement retirement funds	0.4%	0.2%	15.0%	22.8%	61.5%	(n=447)

9. How often do you appoint an attorney to criminal cases knowing that the particular attorney does not want to accept such an appointment? (n=443)

- 0.2% Always
- 2.5% Often
- 18.1% Sometimes
- 36.3% Rarely
- 42.9% Never (Please skip to question 11)

10. How often do the following factors play a role in your appointing attorneys whom you know do not wish to accept such appointments? (Large number of missing cases)

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	
a. Necessity, there are no other lawyers available	6.8%	28.0%	29.2%	18.8%	17.2%	(n=250)
b. Necessity, there are no other lawyers with the needed skills or experience	10.9%	34.1%	26.7%	16.7%	11.6%	(n=258)
c. As “payback” for not supporting you politically	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	5.9%	93.7%	(n=253)
d. As “payback” for not contributing financially to your campaign	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	5.5%	93.7%	(n=253)

Are there other factors? Comments not yet available.

11. Do you use formal criteria for selecting court appointed counsel in more complex, serious or special cases (e.g., mental illness or insanity, DNA, etc.)? (Check one) (n=431)

- 45.2% Yes
- 54.8% No

12. Overall, how satisfied are you with the method you currently use for appointing counsel in indigent criminal cases? (Check one) (n=441)

- 45.8% Very Satisfied
- 43.3% Somewhat Satisfied
- 7.5% Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
- 3.4% Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 0.0% Very Dissatisfied

13. Do you believe that the method you use for appointing attorneys would make a good model for all judges to use in making appointments in indigent cases? (n=392)

- 60.7% Yes
- 39.3% No

If “Yes,” please provide enough details so that we may know precisely how you make the appointments in your court?

Comments not yet available.

14. If you could make any changes in the way attorneys are appointed in your court, what changes would you like to see?

Comments not yet available.

Some jurisdictions in Texas make use of public defenders while others do not. We would now like to ask you a few questions about public defender offices.

15. Is your county authorized by statute to use public defenders, who are regular salaried, either full or part-time, county employees? (n=425)

73.9% No (Please skip to question 21)
26.1% Yes

16. Are public defenders used in your county? (n=175)

50.9% No (Please skip to question 21)
49.1% Yes

17. Are public defenders used in your court? (n=148)

54.7% No (Please skip to question 21)
45.3% Yes

18. Are the public defenders full-time or part-time? (n=68)

88.2% Full-time
11.8% Part-time -----> How many hours per week do they work? mean = 55, s.d. = 7.07 (n=2)

19. What percent of your entire indigent criminal defendants do the public defenders represent?

Mean = 47.35, s.d. =30.78 (n=63)

20. Do you limit the types of cases handled by the public defenders for reasons other than conflicts of interest? (n=68)

22.1% No, I use them for all indigent cases, without exception
14.7% No, I use them for all indigent cases, except where the case requires special skills or knowledge
19.1% I use them for all indigent cases, but I appoint attorneys when the public defenders' case load becomes too heavy.
19.1% I use them only for cases that can be handled reasonably quickly (e.g., probation revocations, obvious probation pleas, et cetera). In other words, I do not give them complex cases that are likely to go to trial and likely to demand a lot of time.
25.0% Other (Please specify) Comments not yet available.

21. Generally speaking, do you favor a public defender system or do you prefer the court appointed counsel system? (n=444)

12.2% I strongly prefer the public defender system over the court appointed counsel system
11.9% Slightly favor a public defender system instead of a court appointed counsel system, but not strongly
21.2% I do not have a preference for either system
19.6% Slightly favor a court appointed counsel system instead of a public defender system, but not strongly
34.9% I strongly prefer the court appointed counsel system over the public defender system

Now we would like to ask you a few questions related to the process of determining whether an individual is an indigent.

22. On a daily basis, who typically determines indigent status in your court? (Check one) (n=460)

- 77.2% I do or someone else using criteria I have established
- 15.2% A clerk, coordinator or other administrator of the court
- 7.6% Other (Please specify) Comments not yet available.

23. Do you use formal written criteria for determining indigent status? (Check one) (n=457)

- 51.9% Yes
- 48.1% No → Please skip to question 25

24. If you use formal criteria for determining indigent status exist, are the criteria adhered to on a regular basis? (Check one) (n=240)

- 92.9% Yes
- 7.1% No

25. What criteria are typically used for determining indigent status in your court (e.g., in jail, bond status, employment, etc.)?

Comments not yet available.

26. What criteria do you believe should be used to determine indigent status?

Comments not yet available.

27. How satisfied are you with the current method of determining a defendant's indigent status in your jurisdiction? (Check one) (n=460)

- 27.4% Very Satisfied
- 45.0% Somewhat Satisfied
- 14.8% Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
- 10.2% Somewhat Dissatisfied
- 2.6% Very Dissatisfied

28. Some people have suggested that indigent status should be determined by some objective standard such as whether or not the defendant qualifies for food stamps. Would you support such a standard? (n=460)

- 5.2% Strongly support
- 20.4% Moderately support
- 30.7% Neither support or oppose
- 18.9% Moderately oppose
- 24.8% Strongly oppose

If you oppose the idea of using food stamp eligibility as a criterion but favor the idea of an objective standard, what criterion would you recommend?

Comments not yet available.

Next we would like your thoughts on the compensation and support services provided to defense counsel in indigent criminal cases in your court.

29. What is your best guess as to the AVERAGE amount of compensation you pay defense counsel for the following services in indigent cases argued in your court?

a. per court appearance (e.g., announcement)	mean = 104.27	s.d.= 80.65	n=227
b. per day of trial (e.g., actual testimony)	mean = 380.76	s.d.= 188.66	n=287
c. per hourly fee for <u>out of court</u> work \$	mean = 51.02	s.d.= 19.45	n=328
d. per hour fee for <u>in-court</u> work \$	mean = 67.56	s.d.= 42.19	n=266
e. flat fee per case (e.g., a plea) \$	mean = 293.71	s.d.= 464.82	n=287

30. Do you vary the fees you noted in question 29 according to the complexity of the case? (n=430)

77.0% Yes
23.0% No

If “Yes,” please provide an example

Comments not yet available.

31. How often do each of the following factors influence your decision of how much to pay an appointed attorney:

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Usually</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	
a. The adopted fee schedule	32.5%	50.7%	8.9%	2.3%	5.7%	(n=440)
b. The caliber of the work done, in addition to the time spent	14.9%	37.6%	30.0%	9.7%	7.9%	(n=444)
c. The degree of monitoring then being done by the county commissioners	0.9%	1.4%	6.2%	21.1%	70.5%	(n=437)
d. The degree of monitoring then being done by the news media	0.7%	0.0%	2.8%	14.9%	81.7%	(n=436)
e. The attorney is your friend	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	7.7%	89.7%	(n=439)
f. The attorney is one of your political supporters	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	6.4%	92.5%	(n=438)
g. The attorney contributed to your campaign	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	5.5%	93.4%	(n=439)
h. Attorney’s need for income	0.5%	0.5%	7.6%	18.1%	73.5%	(n=437)
i. A retired or semi-retired attorney who uses appointments to supplement retirement funds	0.2%	0.2%	4.2%	13.2%	82.2%	(n=432)

32. Of the factors listed in the previous question, which single factor typically has the MOST influence in your decision of how much to pay an appointed attorney: (n=442)

59.0% a 36.7% b 0.2% c 0.0% d 0.0% e
0.0% f 0.0% h 0.0% h 0.0% i 4.1% Other

33. Do you ever pay appointed counsel MORE than the amount specified by the fee schedule? (n=431)

32.0% No
68.0% Yes

If “Yes,” under what circumstances might this occur?

Comments not yet available.

34. Do you ever pay appointed counsel LESS than the amount specified by the fee schedule? (n=426)

59.2% No
40.8% Yes

If "Yes," under what circumstances might this occur?

Comments not yet available.

35. Do you believe that current rates of compensation for court appointed counsel are sufficient to attract qualified private counsel for court appointed indigent cases? (Check one) (n=452)

49.1% Yes
40.9% No
10.0% Don't Know

36. Based on your observations, does the level of compensation paid to assigned counsel in any way affect the quality of representation they provide to defendants in your county? (Check one) (n=450)

27.1% Yes
62.4% No
10.4% Don't Know

37. Do you believe that defense counsel in your county generally receive the support services they need to represent their indigent client (e.g., investigator, criminalist, forensic experts)? (Check one) (n=450)

65.1% Yes
26.7% No
8.2% Don't Know

38. How often are defense counsel in your court required to obtain prior approval before using support services? (Check one) (n=441)

81.2% Always
11.8% Often
4.3% Sometimes
1.4% Rarely
1.4% Never

39. When approving special services, how often do you specify who must provide the requested service? For example, how often do you approve a criminalist but also stipulate that the appointed counsel must use the specific criminalist named by you? (n=436)

4.1% Always
8.0% Often
17.0% Sometimes
25.5% Rarely
45.4% Never

40. How often does denial of special services (e.g., investigator, criminalist, forensic expert) adversely affect the quality of representation provided by court appointed defense counsel? (n=396)

- 3.0% Always
- 7.3% Most of the time
- 19.2% Some of the time
- 41.4% Rarely
- 28.8% Never
- 0.3% Don't Know (volunteered)

If possible, please provide an example

Comment not yet available.

This section contains questions which ask for your overall evaluation of the current indigent criminal defense system and the quality of representation.

41. In general, do you feel that court appointed attorneys are as well prepared as the prosecutors they face? (n=429)

- 55.7% Always equally prepared
- 42.7% Prosecutors are typically better prepared
- 1.6% Prosecutors are always better prepared

42. When thinking of the criminal defense attorneys in your court, are the attorneys who provide court appointed representation generally more experienced or less experienced than the typical criminal defense attorney? (Check one) (n=445)

- 1.3% Court appointed attorneys are always more experienced
- 14.2% Court appointed attorneys are usually more experienced
- 53.2% Court appointed attorneys and retained attorneys are about equally experienced
- 30.3% Retained attorneys are usually more experienced
- 0.9% Retained attorneys are always more experienced

43. In similar cases, is there a difference between pleas offered from prosecutors to clients with retained counsel compared to those with court appointed counsel? (Check one) (n=444)

- 12.4% Plea offers are usually better for clients with retained counsel
- 80.2% Plea offers are about the same for clients with retained and appointed counsel
- 2.0% Plea offers are usually better for clients with appointed counsel
- 5.4% Other (Please specify) Comments not yet available.

44. In general, do you believe that clients with retained counsel receive better representation than clients who have received court appointed attorneys? (Check one) (n=450)

- 1.6% Retained counsel always provide better representation
- 40.4% Retained counsel usually provide better representation
- 52.2% Retained and court appointed counsel typically provide the same quality of representation
- 5.8% Court appointed counsel usually provide better representation
- 0.0% Court appointed counsel always provide better presentation

45. Assuming similar cases, what is your perception about the amount of time that retained and court appointed counsel devote to preparation? (Check one) (n=437)

- 5.0% Retained counsel always spend more time preparing
- 43.7% Retained counsel usually spend more time preparing
- 48.1% Retained and court appointed counsel spend equal amounts time preparing
- 3.0% Court appointed counsel usually spend more time preparing
- 0.2% Court appointed counsel always spend more time preparing

46. Based on your observations of judges you may know, how do they treat retained counsel and appointed counsel in the courtroom? (Check one) (n=424)

- 0.2% Appointed counsel is always treated more favorably than retained counsel
- 1.2% Appointed counsel is usually treated more favorably than retained counsel
- 92.2% Both retained and appointed counsel are treated equally
- 6.4% Retained counsel is usually treated more favorably than appointed counsel
- 0.0% Retained counsel is always treated more favorably than appointed counsel

47. Again, based on your observations of judges you may know, how do they treat clients with retained counsel and appointed counsel in sentencing decisions? (Check one) (n=424)

- 0.5% Clients with appointed counsel always receive more favorable sentencing decisions
- 1.7% Clients with appointed counsel usually receive more favorable sentencing decisions
- 92.2% Clients with appointed and retained counsel receive similar sentencing decisions
- 5.7% Clients with retained counsel usually receive more favorable sentencing decisions
- 0.0% Clients with retained counsel always receive more favorable sentencing decisions

If you have observed differences in the disposition of cases with retained and appointed counsel, please provide an example:

Comments not yet available.

48. What provisions, if any, exist for monitoring the quality of representation provided by attorneys serving as court appointed counsel in your court? (Check one) (n=435)

- 50.8% None exist
- 1.4% Formal provisions exist
- 47.8% Informal provisions exist

Please elaborate on the formal or informal provisions that exist in your court:

Comments not yet available.

49. Have you ever observed individual defense counsel who behave differently depending on whether he or she is representing a retained or indigent client? (n=442)

- 39.8% Yes
- 60.2% No → Please skip to question 52

50. Thinking of the defense attorneys you have noticed behaving differently in your court depending on the nature of their client

	Yes	No	
a. do these attorneys devote less time to their indigent clients?	87.3%	12.7%	(n=322)
b. are these attorneys less prepared to defend their indigent clients?	72.7%	27.3%	(n=330)
c. do these attorneys put on a less vigorous defense of their indigent clients?	66.0%	34.0%	(n=327)
d. what other differences have you observed? (Please elaborate)	Comments not yet available.		

51. What do you believe is motivating these attorneys to behave differently in retained and appointed cases?

Comments not yet available.

52. What action, if any, do you take if you observe defense counsel providing less than adequate representation?

Comments not yet available.

53. Have you ever stopped a criminal trial and appointed additional counsel because of what you perceived to be a less than adequate defense counsel? (n=445)

82.5% No
 17.5% Yes -----> How many times have you done this and over what period of years?

Number of times: mean = 4.86, s.d. = 12.86 (n=72)
 Years: mean = 14.55, s.d. = 7.85, (n=75)

54. Which of the following changes in the present system of representation would you favor, if any? Please rank all that apply by importance, number one being the change that you favor the most.

Development of a county based public defender system (n=193)

Rank	Percent
1	21.2%
2	25.4
3	16.1
4	19.2
5	15.0
6	3.1

Development of a statewide public defender system (n=172)

Rank	Percent
1	25.6%
2	6.4
3	9.9
4	14.5
5	23.3
6	19.8
7	0.6

Development of a centrally coordinated and regulated assigned counsel system to replace an ad hoc judge appointed system (n=175)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	18.9%
2	23.4
3	17.1
4	20.6
5	13.7
6	6.3

Contracting with private attorney to provide representation in all types of criminal cases (n=183)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	14.2%
2	23.0
3	30.6
4	15.3
5	12.6
6	4.4

Increased fees for county-appointed counsel. Please specify the suggested hourly rate(s) _____ (n=279)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	50.5%
2	25.4
3	11.1
4	5.0
5	6.5
6	1.4

No changes necessary (n=216)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	64.4%
2	12.5
3	7.9
4	2.8
5	1.4
6	11.1

Other (Please specify) (n=34)

Comments not yet available.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1	58.8%
2	26.5
3	5.9
4	5.9
5	0.0
6	0.0
7	2.9

To better understand the political circumstances in your jurisdiction, we would like you to take a few moments to answer some questions about the role county commissioners play in your jurisdiction.

55. How often do budget considerations influence your decision to compensate appointed counsel? (n=447)

7.6% Always
8.5% Usually
24.8% Sometimes
27.1% Rarely
32.0% Never

Please provide an example: Comments not yet available.

56. How often do budget considerations influence your decision to approve special services? (n=447)

7.1% Always
10.0% Usually
22.3% Sometimes
27.2% Rarely
33.4% Never

Please provide an example: Comments not yet available.

57. Have county commissioners ever approached judges in your jurisdiction about controlling the cost of their court's general budget? (n=455)

48.1% Yes
30.3% No
21.5% Don't Know

58. Have county commissioners ever approached YOU about controlling the cost of your court's general budget? (n=460)

72.4% No
27.6% Yes

59. Have county commissioners ever approached judges in your jurisdiction about controlling the cost of indigent defense? (n=458)

50.2% Yes
26.4% No
23.4% Don't Know

60. Have county commissioners ever approached YOU about controlling the cost of indigent defense? (n=460)

72.0% No
28.0% Yes

61. If you have had a conversation with a county commissioner related to budget matters, please describe the nature of the conversation. For example, what sorts of requests did the commissioners make? What type of pressure, if any, did you feel? What sort of action, if any, did you take in response to the conversation? In short, we are hoping to get a feel for the dynamic relationship that exists between the county commissioners and judges as it relates to budgets and indigent defense.

Comments not yet available.

62. Have you ever exceeded your budget for indigent defense? (n=414)

40.1% No
59.9% Yes

If “Yes,” what were the consequences and how was the shortfall covered?

Comments not yet available.

63. Do you feel your budget for indigent defense is sufficient? (n=409)

66.5% Yes
33.5% No -----> By roughly what percent would you like it to be increased?

Mean = 46.95, s.d. = 45.86, (n=116)

Finally, we would like some information about your background and your experience with the indigent criminal defense system in Texas.

64. What is the nature of your judgeship? (n=454)

66.8% District Judge
25.1% County Judge

65. How many years have you been in your present judgeship? (n=458)

Mean = 10.04, s.d. = 6.98

66. How many years have you been associated with criminal law (either as a judge, defense lawyer, or prosecutor)?
(n=459)

Mean = 23.81, s.d. = 11.29

67. We are interested in knowing your experience prior to becoming a judge. Please check all the positions you have held and note the number of years at each position.

	<u>Percent Indicating Experience</u>	<u>Number of years of Experience</u>
prosecutor	58.3 (n=472)	mean = 6.37, s.d. = 5.05 (n=260)
criminal defense lawyer	73.6 (n=474)	mean = 10.05, s.d. = 7.56 (n=327)
civil lawyer	71.5 (n=474)	mean = 13.14, s.d. = 8.62 (n=312)
civil judge	28.3 (n=473)	mean = 11.52, s.d. = 8.14 (n=126)
law enforcement official	5.5 (n=473)	mean = 6.11, s.d. = 7.03 (n=18)

68. On average, how many criminal cases do you dispose of each year? mean = 1271.66, s.d. = 1560, (n=370)
 Approximately what percent of these cases involve indigent defendants? mean = 59.21, s.d. = 27.76 (n=368)
69. On average, how many contested criminal trials do you hear each year? mean = 43.03, s.d. = 69.20 (n=418)
 Approximately what percent of these cases involve indigent defendants? mean = 58.85, s.d. = 38.19 (n=390)

70. What is the approximate population of the county in which you are a judge? (n=429)

Mean = 606,137.06, s.d. = 923,157.24, minimum value = 3,750, maximum value = 5,000,000

71. Please check all of the following that apply to you:

- 81.8% I attend continuing legal education courses sponsored by the State Bar of Texas (n=404)
- 24.3% I attend continuing legal education courses sponsored by TCDLA (n=120)
- 10.5% I attend continuing legal education courses sponsored by TDCAA (n=52)
- 24.2% I subscribe to *Criminal Law Digest* (n=122)
- 7.5% I am Board certified in criminal law (n=37)
- 93.1% I attend continuing legal education courses sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary (n=460)
- 31.4% I attend continuing legal education courses sponsored by national judicial organizations (n=155)

72. What is your political party affiliation? (n=463)

- 54.5% Democrat
- 44.7% Republican
- 1.1% Other (please specify)

73. Have you changed your party affiliation in the past 10 years? (n=463)

- 8.2% Yes
- 91.8% No

74. What age group do you fall into? (n=471)

- 0.4% 30 and Under
- 6.8% 31 - 40
- 32.9% 41-50
- 29.3% 51-60
- 30.6% 61 and over

75. What is your gender? (Check one) (n=470)

- 16.0% Female
- 84.0% Male

76. What is your ethnicity? (Check one) (n=467)

- 1.9% Black
- 85.9% White
- 8.6% Hispanic
- 0.4% Native American
- 0.0% Pacific Islander
- 3.2% Other (please specify)

Please use the space below to offer any comments you feel would be helpful in providing an understanding of the status of indigent criminal defense in Texas:

Comments not yet available.

Please use the space below to offer any suggestions for ways to improve the system of indigent criminal defense in Texas.

Comments not yet available.

Thank you for your help. Your prompt reply is appreciated.