

CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENT TEXAS HABEAS ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING COUNSEL

The Texas Habeas Assistance and Training Counsel Project seeks up to two lawyers to contract with the Federal Defender system to provide case consultation, training, and support to attorneys appointed to represent Texas death-sentenced prisoners. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in racial and ethnicity-based bias in the death penalty process. The consultation, training, and support will be limited to cases involving Texas death-sentenced prisoners who are undergoing federal habeas review. The cases involve habeas and related litigation in the United States District Courts of Texas; the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; the United States Supreme Court; and other related actions, including clemency.

Applicants must be licensed attorneys in good standing admitted in at least one United States District Court, and at least one United States Court of Appeals. Applicants must be learned in the law applicable to capital cases consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 3599. It is not necessary to be admitted in the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, nor the Texas District Courts. It will be necessary, however, to become conversant in the local rules and culture that govern federal habeas proceedings of Texas death-sentenced prisoners. Commitment to quality indigent defense and client centered practices are also essential.

Resource Counsel should have the experience and skills necessary to:

- work successfully with teams with varied skill levels;
- work well with diverse teams and diverse clients and maintain an ongoing commitment to cultural competence;
- produce high quality legal research and writing in a timely fashion;
- communicate effectively and respectfully, both orally and in writing;
- provide strategic advice grounded in a sophisticated understanding of habeas procedure and capital defense;
- contribute to the development of trainings and resource materials relevant to capital habeas proceedings; and,
- work both independently and as a part of the Project team.

The population of death-sentenced prisoners in Texas reflects consistent race- and ethnicity-based disparities. Thus, preference will be given to candidates with background and experience necessary to resourcing issues that arise from racial or ethnicity-based bias in the death penalty process, including:

- race, ethnicity, or status-based selective prosecution;

- bias in jury composition and selection;
- race, ethnicity, or status-based bias in forensic and mental health procedures;
- bias arising in in-court prosecutorial conduct; and,
- bias, prejudice, and other cultural incompetence of defense counsel.

Preference will be given to applicants with specific experiences which have conferred fluency in these areas of advocacy and analysis. Texas is not only a multi-racial place, it is also a multi-ethnic culture with a unique history. Specific expertise in bigotry and bias in the experience of Latino clients would be welcome.

Applicants should explicitly address their relevant skills and experience in their cover letter. Successful candidates may be particularly strong in one area, and less skilled in another. In your letter, please explain why you are nonetheless a candidate who warrants consideration.

Travel to Texas is occasionally required, however most of the case consultation is conducted by telephone and electronic communication. It is not necessary to live in Texas.

The contract will begin on or after March 1, 2026, subject to the availability of funding. The contract rate for FY 2026 (which began on October 1, 2025) is \$202.00 per hour, plus necessary expenses, subject to the availability of funding. Each of the two contracts is for a maximum of 525 hours per fiscal year and the contract for the current fiscal year will be prorated in proportion to the time remaining in the fiscal year. This is not a full-time position, the contractor is not located in a federal defender office, and benefits such as health insurance and costs like office overhead are not provided. Travel costs and other related expenses are provided for in the contract but the costs are deducted from the total budget of the contract.

Interested parties should send a resume, a writing sample and a cover letter addressing their skills and experience as described above, and any other relevant experience to Ms. Rindy Fox at rinfox@gmail.com. The Texas Habeas Assistance and Training Counsel Project welcomes applications from individuals whose background and experience contribute to the diversity of the federal capital habeas defense bar. Applications will be accepted until the contracts are filled; interested applicants are encouraged to apply before March 10, 2026.