

FUTURE INDIGENT DEFENSE LEADERS

TCDLA | TIDC | HCPDO

FUTURE INDIGENT DEFENSE LEADERS (FIDL) MENTEE APPLICATION

Applications Due: Monday, December 16, 2019, by 5 pm (Central)

FIDL is a selective program that aims to create the next generation of highly skilled, client-centered Texas attorneys to represent persons who cannot afford counsel. This partnership between the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC), the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA), and the Harris County Public Defender's Office (HCPDO) offers unparalleled indigent defense training, mentoring, and leadership opportunities. Selected through a competitive process, FIDL mentees become part of an exclusive statewide team dedicated to zealous representation.

First, project members are guaranteed enrollment in [Gideon's Promise](#), a nationally renowned teaching institution for indigent defense, led by "[MacArthur Genius Award](#)" recipient [Jon Rapping](#). As seen on the HBO documentary "Gideon's Army," the institute uses cutting-edge techniques to train defense attorneys across the nation.



Second, members receive the education and practical support necessary to navigate local criminal courts through local trainings and one-on-one mentoring from some of the best criminal defense attorneys in Texas.

Program Highlights:

- Full tuition, travel, food, and lodging is provided for the three-year duration of the Gideon's Promise Core 101 course. The nation's premier public defender training program includes:
 - The Summer Institute—a "boot camp" experience that immerses participants in creative and interactive teaching methods led by nationally renowned experts: August 1-15, 2020 (out-of-state)
 - The Semi-Annual Meetings—larger gatherings focusing on system reform and providing advanced, follow-up training: each January and July through 2023 (out-of-state)
 - Access to a national network of criminal defense mentors
- Regular TCDLA seminars, meetings, and brainstorming's focusing on real world cases
- Personalized, one-on-one mentorship from some of the best local criminal defense attorneys including public defenders, private practitioners, and Gideon alumni.

Candidate Qualifications:

- Graduation from an accredited law school and completion of the Texas Bar Examination by August 2020
- If licensed, be in good standing and licensed as an attorney for less than 3 years
- Commitment to practice indigent criminal defense
- Ability to attend all local and out-of-state training sessions (absent extraordinary circumstances) over the next three years
- Must attend entire out-of-state "boot camp" August 2020, from start to finish.

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***Incomplete applications will not be considered**

Send applications to mschank@tcdla.com or fax 512.469.0512

Questions? Contact Kathleen Casey-Gamez at kc Casey-gamez@tidc.texas.gov or call 512.463.2573

PLEASE CONFINE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW

Name: _____

Office Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ Birth Date: _____

Date of Law License: _____ If Unlicensed, Date of Exam: _____

Law School: _____ Grad. Date: _____ Rank/GPA: _____

Undergrad: _____ Degree: _____ Rank/GPA: _____

Reference: _____ Relationship _____ Email: _____

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Languages other than English in which you are fluent: _____

Blogs/websites that you maintain/write: _____

List all other jobs or programs for which you are currently applying or plan to apply:

Anticipated employment after June 2021: _____

In what region do you intend to practice?

El Paso DFW Houston Valley Lubbock Hill Country Other _____

Why criminal defense?

If selected:

Can you commit to attend Gideon's Summer Institute - August 1-15, 2020? Travel and tuition will be covered.

yes no

Can you attend Rusty Duncan Events? (Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to \$400)

Mentor/Mentee Orientation - June 17, 2020 - 2 pm

Mental Health Training - June 17, 2020 (additional travel funds)

Rusty Duncan - June 18-20, 2020

Application Requirements:

1. Cover Letter
2. Application form
3. Resume
4. Two letters of recommendation
5. If not yet licensed, provide your (unofficial) law school transcript
6. Photo of yourself
7. Writing Sample or Personal Statement (max 3 pages)

I have read the FIDL Project information in its entirety and I understand that it requires a **three-year commitment, out-of-state travel, and mandatory attendance** in training sessions only excusable by extraordinary circumstances. I certify that the information I have given in this application and attachments is my own, and is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date