
**THE FUTURE INDIGENT DEFENSE LEADERS (FIDL) PROJECT
SCHOLARSHIPS IN CRIMINAL DEFENSE**



APPLICATIONS DUE: MONDAY APRIL 29, 2019

The FIDL Project is a unique opportunity for new and aspiring criminal defense attorneys to receive the most innovative and comprehensive training in indigent defense. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the Harris County Public Defender's Office have partnered to launch a selective, three-year indigent defense training, mentoring, and leadership program. The goal is to create the next generation of highly skilled, client-centered attorneys to represent poor people charged with crimes.

Selected through a competitive process, FIDL Project members become part of an exclusive statewide team dedicated to real-world positive change. The three years of training and support included in the program provide the skills to become outstanding advocates for indigent people accused of crimes.

First, project members are guaranteed enrollment in **Gideon's Promise**, a nationally renowned teaching institution for indigent defense, led by the "**Genius Grant**" recipient **Jon Rapping**. As seen on the HBO documentary "Gideon's Army," the institute uses cutting-edge techniques to train defense attorneys across the country to challenge and reform systemic injustice within their communities.



Second, members receive the education and practical support necessary to navigate local criminal courts. Legal education seminars teach local procedures while essential local support is provided through one-on-one mentorship from some of the best criminal defense lawyers 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-renown experts: August 2 – 17, 2019 (out-of-state)

- The Semi Annual Meetings—larger gatherings focusing on system reform and providing advanced, follow-up training: each January and July through 2021 (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 2, 2019
- 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 2 – 17, 2019, from start to finish.



FIDL PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

Applications Due: Monday, April 29, 2019, by 5pm (Central)

Submit application and requirements via email to mschank@tcdla.com or fax 512.469.0512

PLEASE CONFINE YOUR ANSWERS TO THE SPACE PROVIDED BELOW

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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 July 2019:

In what region do you intend to practice?

El Paso ___ DFW ___ Houston ___ Valley ___ Lubbock ___ Hill Country ___ Other _____

Why criminal defense?

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)

CERTIFICATION

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

Submit your application packet by April 29, 2019.

***No applications will be considered unless they are complete and sent to the email address above.**

Questions? Contact Sarah V. Wood at Sarah.Wood@pdo.hctx.net