



Harris County Public Defender's Office

Albany, New York

Number of Public Defenders

200

Number of Gideon's Promise Defenders

30+

Types of Cases Fellows Will Handle

Misdemeanors & Non-violent felony cases

About our Office

The Harris County Public Defender's Office serves one of the most diverse jurisdictions in the country, representing clients across misdemeanor, felony, juvenile, and appellate courts in Harris County. We are proud to have one of the highest numbers of Gideon's Promise-trained attorneys in the nation, including the Chief Defender herself. These defenders work every day to provide client-centered representation rooted in the Gideon's Promise values.

To support that mission, our office employs a full team of investigators, social workers, psychologists, paralegals, mitigation specialists, and other professionals who work with attorneys to address the full scope of our clients' needs. We also maintain caseload limits and provide second-chair support on every trial to ensure attorneys can deliver the highest quality of representation. This multidisciplinary structure reflects our commitment to ensuring lawyers are both well-trained and well-supported in carrying out our mission of holistic, client-centered representation





About the Fellowship

(1) Our office are willing to fund 5 or more fellows; (2) we have a need for bilingual attorneys; (3) Fellows will handle misdemeanor cases in either the trial division or the mental health division. They may also be placed in our bail division- our attorneys represent clients in magistrate court and argue for bail in misdemeanor and felony cases.

Words from the Office

“As Chief Public Defender, I know firsthand the impact Gideon’s Promise can have. When I was a new attorney, my participation in Gideon’s Promise helped sustained me through losses, burnout, and even budget cuts. Nearly twenty years later, I still find joy and meaning in this work, thanks in large part to the community of defenders and the training I received through Gideon’s Promise. In our office, we don’t just represent clients; we also work to restore dignity and challenge the systems that fuel mass incarceration. We value mentorship, resilience, and community, and Gideon’s Promise is central to that culture. If you join us, you’ll find meaningful work, strong support, and the chance to be part of lasting change.”

Genesis Draper
Chief Public Defender
Harris County Public Defender's Office

