

LETHALLY DEFICIENT: DIRECT APPEALS IN TEXAS DEATH PENALTY CASES – SECTION III
INDIGENT DIRECT APPEAL REPRESENTATION IN TEXAS

⁶⁵ The Bexar County Appellate Public Defender Office, which represented three defendants in our study, now is known as the Bexar County Public Defender. *See* BEXAR CTY. PUBLIC DEF., <https://www.bexar.org/1041/Public-Defenders-Office> (last visited July 6, 2016).

⁶⁶ A total of 78.6% of the cases in our sample were handled by a single court-appointed defense attorney.

⁶⁷ Regional presiding judges are appointed by the governor for a four-year term.

⁶⁸ TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 26.052(j) (Vernon 2015). In some instances, trial courts appoint lawyers who are approved in neighboring administrative judicial regions. For example, in Ramiro Gonzales' case, the 38th District Court, which is in the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region, appointed Michael Gross to represent Mr. Gonzales on direct appeal. At the time, Mr. Gross was not on the Sixth Administrative Judicial Region's list of approved counsel, but was qualified for appointment to death penalty cases by the Fourth Administrative Judicial Region. *See* Order Appointing Lead Appellate Counsel, No. 04-02-9091-CR (38th Dist. Ct., Medina County, Tex. Oct. 3, 2006) (stating that the appointed lawyer was qualified for assignment to death penalty direct appeals by the Fourth Administrative Judicial Region).

⁶⁹ TEX. CODE CRIM. PROC. ANN. art. 26.052(1) (Vernon 2015) (requiring appellate counsel to be compensated from county funds).

⁷⁰ *Id.* at art. 26.05(b) (charging county and district court judges with adopting fee schedules for defense attorney services that are paid out of county funds).