



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Executive
Director Texas
Defender Service

October 20, 2021

Texas Defender Service (TDS), the Lonestar State's flagship criminal justice litigation and policy non-profit, is seeking an Executive Director. Founded in 1995, TDS's initial mission was to improve the quality of representation in capital cases across the state and ensure that all those facing a death sentence are treated with dignity and receive quality representation. Throughout its duration, TDS has functioned as a vital safety net, watchdog, and agent for reform. Lawyers and mitigation specialists at the agency have represented clients in some of the most important cases across the state, including Scott Panetti and Duane Buck. TDS has also played an active role at the capitol, pushing for critical legislative changes in the provision of indigent representation and forensic science.

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This past year, TDS underwent a strategic planning process and will now expand its mission to attack the excessive sentences that are pervasive across Texas, using the tools that are its bread and butter: litigation, policy, and storytelling. It is, therefore, an especially exciting time to take the reins of this organization. The new ED will play a vital role in continuing the organization's capital work while expanding the agency's work to attack the harsh laws that keep people in prison long after they pose any risk to community safety.

TDS has offices in Houston and Austin. The Executive Director can be located in either office. The Executive Director reports to a Board of Directors.

www.texasdefender.org

Board of Directors
Murray Fogler
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Burke Butler
Laura Ferry
Toby Galloway
Noah Graubart
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SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Director will be responsible for ensuring that TDS continues and expands its mission and remains a dynamic force in the Texas and national criminal justice reform communities. The Executive Director is expected to manage the various facets of TDS's work in support of its mission—direct representation, trial consulting, training, and policy work. The Executive Director is responsible for fundraising for the organization, overseeing its long-term health and growth, and being the public face of TDS.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience in criminal justice reform and a commitment to ending mass incarceration;
- Experience in and demonstrated aptitude for supervising and managing staff;
- Proven fundraising and financial management experience;
- Demonstrated ability to write and communicate persuasively;
- Familiarity with criminal justice policy work;
- Ability to connect TDS to partners across the state and country;
- Prior experience in indigent client representation in criminal cases;
- Prior experience in capital representation.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Salary commensurate with experience; benefits package provided.

APPLICATION

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis **and interviews will begin immediately**. Interested persons are invited to send a cover letter and resume to: Jessica Brand (Jessica.Brand@wrencollective.com). TDS welcomes applications from individuals whose background and experience contribute to the diversity of the organization. A JD is preferred but not required.