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**Texas Indigent Defense Commission Appoints
Scott Ehlers as its next Executive Director**

AUSTIN – The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) has appointed Scott Ehlers as its next Executive Director. Mr. Ehlers continues his work at TIDC where he has served in a variety of roles since 2016, most recently as the Director of Public Defense Improvement. Prior to coming to TIDC, Ehlers represented indigent defendants in private practice, worked at the Harris County Public Defender’s Office, and served as former State Senator Rodney Ellis’s criminal justice staffer. He is currently vice chair of the State Bar of Texas Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters Committee.

“TIDC’s Board and I have been extremely happy with Mr. Ehlers’s leadership during his time as the interim Executive Director and as the Director of Public Defense Improvement,” said Sharon Keller, Chair, Texas Indigent Defense Commission and Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals. “He has led planning studies that have resulted in TIDC grants to create the Nueces County Public Defender Office, the Brazos County Public Defender Office, and the soon-to-be-launched, 13-county High Plains Regional Public Defender Office. He has also authored publications on managed assigned counsel and mental health defender programs. We believe his wealth of knowledge and experience will continue to help TIDC improve public defense in Texas.”

Born and raised in Houston, Mr. Ehlers earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Texas at Austin, his master’s in Justice, Law, and Society from American University in Washington, DC, and his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. “I’m very excited to lead a great team at TIDC to advance our mission of protecting the right to counsel and improving public defense in Texas. I am grateful to TIDC’s Board for their confidence and trust in me,” Ehlers said.

About TIDC

The Texas Indigent Defense Commission funds, oversees, and improves indigent defense in each of the State’s 254 counties. TIDC is led by 13 commission members and 17 staff. To learn more, visit www.tidc.texas.gov.

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