



COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Fort Bend County, Texas

Jeffrey A. McMeans
Judge

(281) 341-4446
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December 10, 2014

To: County Judge Herbert and members of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission

RE: Application for technical support grant for 2015 in the amount of \$20,000.00

Dear Judge and Members of the Commission,

I am writing to you in support of the Fort Bend County Veterans Court. I oversee that court, which is a voluntary, treatment oriented court following the model of drug and DWI treatment courts established throughout Texas. We take a collaborative approach with team members from the Veterans Administration, the probation department, the judiciary, veterans advocacy groups, the Fort Bend County District Attorney's office, and the local bar all working to help restore the good records of veterans whose service-related conditions have led them into the criminal justice system.

We are dedicated to this effort. We are asking specifically for a renewable technical assistance grant to support the indigent veterans who come into this program with paid, experienced criminal defense lawyers who have been hand-picked for this court because of their desire to help veterans. Our goal is to have a manageable docket of 20-25 veterans charged with misdemeanor offenses, who will be represented by these contract attorneys throughout their involvement with the Veterans Court. To that end, at our projected contract rate of \$100.00 [one hundred dollars] per hour, we believe that the requested sum will adequately cover the estimated hours required to serve these brave men and women.

We believe this grant is crucial to the zealous representation for these veterans. I ask for your support and your grant of this money to help us pay these dedicated attorneys. Help us help these veterans.

Thank you very much for your attention, and your continued support of our veterans.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. McMeans", is written over a horizontal line.

Hon. Jeffrey A. McMeans

COUNTY JUDGE
RECEIVED

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