



## Research on Public Defense Funding in Louisiana

Available

### Project Title

Research on Public Defense Funding in Louisiana

### Scope of Work

We are interested on research into whether this plan, if implemented, would contradict (1) applicable ethics rules for defense attorneys and/or (2) the constitutional rights of criminal defendants in Louisiana, especially the right to counsel.

### Timing

### Jurisdiction

LA, Federal

### Contact Information

Please contact Guerby Noel ([guerby@lawfirmantiracismalliance.org](mailto:guerby@lawfirmantiracismalliance.org)) if you are interested in taking on this matter.

### Description

This story gives a grim outlook on public defense funding in Louisiana, especially the report that the proposed plan would “tie[] district defender pay to fees that clients must pay their office whenever they’re convicted.” Changes to indigent defense could stretch an already underfunded system and erode the quality of representation for poor people across the state. The relevant plan document, attached here, appears to confirm that it would tie compensation for district defenders (though not line-level defenders) to the total number of *convictions* in the district.