



STATE OF ALABAMA
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 11, 2018

TO: 1. Alabama Judiciary
2. Attorneys Receiving Appointments as Lead or Associate Counsel in Capital Murder Cases

FROM: Chris E. Roberts *CR*
Office of Indigent Defense Services

RE: Required Attorney Qualifications for Capital Murder Appointments

Administrative Rule 355-9-1-.08 establishes mandatory qualifications for attorneys accepting appointments as lead or associate counsel in capital murder cases in the State of Alabama. To facilitate the courts and the Office of Indigent Defense Services in ensuring counsel, whether appointed or public defender, meet the established criteria, the Office of Indigent Defense Services has published *Certification Forms for Capital Counsel* on its website at <http://oids.alabama.gov/Rules.aspx>. Attorneys wishing to receive consideration for appointment as lead or associate counsel in capital cases must complete the appropriate certification form and either mail, email or fax it into this office by August 31, 2018. The contact information for the Office of Indigent Defense Services is as follows:

Mail: P.O. Box 302598, Montgomery, AL 36130-2598
Email: oids@oids.alabama.gov
Fax: (334) 353-4405

The Office of Indigent Defense Services will promulgate a roster with the names of all attorneys certified to accept capital murder appointments. This list will be distributed to the presiding judge of each judicial circuit prior to October 1, 2018. Any attorney appointed as either lead or associate counsel on a capital case on or after October 1, 2018 must appear on the certified list, prior to appointment, to receive payment from the Fair Trial Tax Fund.

An attorney seeking certification may complete the appropriate certification form at any point during the year. However, no attorney should be appointed to a capital case on or after October 1, 2018 unless his or her name appears on the certification list prior to appointment being made. The Office of Indigent Defense Services will update the list during the year as attorneys submit certification forms.