

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
GENERAL ORDER 20-0023**

**IN RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN TO ACCESS JURY
RECORDS AND RELEASE OF STUDY**

The Illinois Federal Defender Program, Inc. in collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin has completed an initial Study of the Revised Jury Plan for the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois (“the Study”) and submitted findings to this Court (see General Order 18-0004). The Study has significant value to the public, members of the legal community, educators, court administrators and judges from other courts that may benefit from the review of this Court’s continued work to improve the District’s juror diversity. The University of Texas now seeks additional data, not available during the initial phase of its work.

This Court recognizes the critical importance of transparency in its efforts to promote and expand juror diversity. The Court therefore hereby orders:

1. The University of Texas at Austin’s July 7, 2020 letter to the Court qualifies as a written “petition” setting forth the reasons for requesting access in compliance with §10(b) of the Court’s expired jury wheel. Working in collaboration with the Illinois Federal Defender Program, the University seeks access to the expired 2017 jury wheel for this court, the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in order to assess the impact of changes to the Court’s Jury Plan on racial and ethnic diversity in our jury pools. As authorized by statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1868, the Clerk of Court shall make AO12 documents for the 2017 jury wheel for the Eastern and Western Divisions available to designated representatives of University of Texas at Austin.
2. Jeffrey Abramson, Professor of Law and Government, University of Texas School of Law and Mary R. Rose, Professor of Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin, are authorized to publish the methodology and results of the Study, with the goal of helping other judicial entities across the country.
3. The Clerk of Court will publish a copy of the Study on the Court’s website in order to make a copy of the results available to the public.

ENTER:

FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Hon. Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 24th day of August, 2020