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In 2015, I was arrested and sat in jail awaiting trial. Since I couldn't afford an attorney, I received a court-appointed lawyer. But I sat in jail on a bond I couldn't pay without a visit from my attorney for 12 months. That attorney had 325 other cases the year she took my case—more than double state recommendations.

The thing is, my story is far from uncommon in the Houston area. Court-appointed lawyers are often overworked and dealing with hundreds of cases at a time because Harris County has not implemented caseload limits. You can help change that.

[I'm asking you to sign this petition to help restore justice for people that need it the most—people like me—by asking the Harris County Commissioners Court to limit caseloads of court-appointed attorneys.](#)

This cause is obviously very close to my heart as someone who has experienced the issue firsthand.

It wasn't until I filed my own motion for probation in my twelfth month in jail was I rescued. A lawyer and volunteer from Restoring Justice visited me and renewed my hope. They explained my circumstance, how my rights were violated, and explained possible steps forward.

I am now free, working six days a week, and saving to move into my own place and buy a car.

But spending over a full year behind bars without being convicted of anything all because I couldn't afford an attorney and had an overloaded, court-appointed lawyer is not how our system should work.

[If you're with me, then please, sign this petition before we deliver it later this month and tell the Harris County Commissioners Court to limit caseloads of court-appointed attorneys.](#)

Thanks,  
Maurice