

Second Chair Program

The IDSO supports the use of second chairs in complicated cases. Additionally, serving as a second chair can help attorneys improve their skills and gain the experience needed to advance to a higher category.

Attorneys seeking a second chair . . .

- Should complete the IDSO's application for approval of a second chair.
- Should email their completed application for approval of a second chair to the IDSO Chief Attorney.

If a first chair attorney does not have a specific attorney in mind to second chair, they can contact the IDSO Principal Attorney for Compliance with Standard 6 and 7 for a list of attorneys interested in second chairing.

Attorneys wanting to second chair . . .

- Should find an attorney who is willing to allow a second chair on their case.
- Should complete the IDSO's request for second chair assignment and email it to the IDSO Chief Attorney.

If an attorney needs help finding a case to second chair, they should contact the IDSO Principal Attorney for Compliance with Standard 6 and 7 for assistance.

Other things to know

1. The IDSO has absolute discretion when deciding whether to allow a second chair.
2. The IDSO will pay second chairs at the applicable rate in its MIDC compliance plan, but under no circumstances will this rate exceed the rate for habitual 4th offenses.
3. The IDSO will only approve second chairs who are on the Oakland Felony/Misdemeanor Appointment List.

4. The IDSO can only pay second chairs to work on appointed criminal cases.
5. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the IDSO will only allow one second chair per case/defendant.
6. There is not a limit on the number of cases that an attorney can second chair, but requests from attorneys without prior second chair experience will be given priority.
7. Second chairs must comply with their obligations under the Rules of Michigan Professional Conduct and should be familiar with the IDSO's core competencies and performance guidelines.