



CHIEF DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK

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Rochester

March 13, 2015

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RE: *Support for the \$3 million increase in the Aid to Localities Budget of the Indigent Legal Services Office*

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Dear Assembly Member Aubry:

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I am writing to urge you to support the additional \$3 million added to the Office of Indigent Legal Services' Aid to Localities budget for 2015-2016 by the New York State Assembly.

CDANY is comprised of sixty (60) Chief Defenders who lead Indigent Defense Programs across New York State. In 2014, these programs represented over 400,000 persons in the criminal, family, and appellate courts of New York. CDANY members are struggling to provide excellent legal representation to their clients despite significant hardships including a lack of funding and insufficient staffing. CDANY was formed to be a voice for positive change for our indigent defense programs and the justice system.

The additional \$3 million in funding will permit the Office of Indigent Legal Services to provide vital resources to indigent defense programs throughout New York State. These increased funds will be dedicated to quality improvement, caseload reduction; and providing constitutionally required counsel at arraignment.

Should you have need for any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

Timothy P. Donaher, President
Chief Defenders Association of New York