

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

To insure that public defense attorneys in criminal cases provide zealous, high quality representation, free of conflict, the system providing such counsel must:

- Have a hiring or selection process and a funding or payment system that assures professional independence.
- Effectively and efficiently screen for eligibility for the appointment of counsel.
- After a request for counsel has been made, immediately appoint and notify counsel of the appointment.
- Assure that the complexity of a case shall be matched to the ability of the attorney appointed.
- Assure that counsel's workload will be matched to his or her capacity and that provisions will be made for overload.
- Allow counsel to have timely and confidential access to his or her client.
- Assure that counsel has access to adequate research materials, investigators, expert witnesses, and sentencing specialists.
- Assure a role for the client community in its design, maintenance and evaluation of quality.
- Assure that counsel is reasonably and timely compensated.
- Provide adequate training and continuing legal education for all appointed counsel.
- Allow counsel to participate in all aspects of improving the quality, cost, and effectiveness of the entire justice system.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEFENDERS ASSOCIATION.

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Kerhonkson, NY**