
Annual Report to the Membership 2006



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Table of Contents

NYSDA Mission Statement	ii
Officers	ii
Directors	ii
Staff	iii
Client Advisory Board	iii
Celebrating the Call for Reform	1
Sharing Ideas, Building Coalitions	1
Changing to Effect Change	3
NYSDA Noted	3
Our Work in the Past Year at a Glance	4
The Past Twelve Months in Detail	5
Planning and Presenting High-Quality, Affordable CLE Training	5
Offering Technical Assistance To Help Public Defense Offices Run More Effectively and Efficiently	5
Assisting Attorneys through Direct Defender Services	6
Guiding Attorneys Representing Non-Citizen Clients In Criminal Matters	7
Soliciting and Analyzing the Opinions and Needs of the Client Community	9
Maintaining The Backup Center	10
Publishing Information	10
Supporting the Support Center	11
Chief Defender Convenings	11
NYSDA Members 2006	13
Contributors	24
Application for Membership	26
Annual Report of Directors Pursuant to Not-for-Profit Corporation Law 519	27



New York State Defenders Association

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Mission Statement

The New York State Defenders Association, a not-for-profit, membership organization, has been providing support to New York's criminal defense community since 1967. Its mission is to improve the quality and scope of publicly supported legal representation to low income people.

Officers

Edward J. Nowak, President
Public Defender, Monroe County

Norman Effman, Vice President
Executive Director, Attica Legal Aid Society, and
Public Defender, Wyoming County

Peter L. McShane, Vice President
Supervising Attorney, Criminal Defense
Division, The Legal Aid Society (Bronx)

Norman Shapiro, Vice President
Private Attorney (Goshen)

Merble H. Reagon, Secretary
Executive Director, Women's Center for
Education and Career Advancement (New
York City)

Marsha Weissman, Treasurer
Executive Director, Center for Community
Alternatives (Syracuse)

Directors

Gaspar M. Castillo, Jr.
Alternate Public Defender, Albany County

John H. Ciulla, Jr.
Public Defender, Saratoga County

Edward R. Hammock
Private Attorney, Hammock & Sullivan
(Flushing)

Susan R. Horn
Executive Director, Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid
Society (Syracuse)

Gary A. Horton
Public Defender, Genesee County

David L. Lewis
Private Attorney, Lewis & Fiore (New York City)

Robert D. Lonski
Administrator, Erie County Bar Association Aid
to Indigent Prisoners Society, Inc.

Joanne Macri
Private Attorney, Of Counsel, Law Offices of
Mark T. Kenmore (Buffalo)

Russell Neufeld
Private Attorney (New York City)

Leonard E. Noisette
Director, Neighborhood Defender Service of
Harlem (New York City)

Louise Perrotta
Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of
Suffolk County

Stephen J. Pittari
Chief Attorney and Executive Director, Legal
Aid Society of Westchester County

Richard A. Rothermel
Public Defender, Otsego County

Lisa Schreibersdorf
Executive Director, Brooklyn Defender Services

Magdalena Hale Spencer
Cornell Law School (Ithaca)

Robin G. Steinberg
Executive Director, The Bronx Defenders

William P. Sullivan, Jr.
Private Attorney, The Sullivan Law Firm (Ithaca)

E. Vincent Warren
Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU National Legal
Department (New York City)

Staff

Jonathan E. Gradess, Executive Director
Charles F. O'Brien, Managing Attorney
Barbara Baggott, Executive Assistant

Dawn Allert, Backup Center Office
Coordinator

David L. Austin, Director of Information
Systems

Bridget Baggott, Backup Center Secretary
Stephanie Batcheller, Backup Center Staff
Attorney

Rose Cahn, Immigrant Defense Project Legal
Intern

Mardi Crawford, Backup Center Staff Attorney

Sheila Cui, Legal Information Specialist

Andrew Davies, Research Associate

Dan Derasmo, Backup Center Legal Intern

Darlene Dollard, Project Manager

Mary Durgee, Accountant

Josh Epstein, Immigrant Defense Project Legal
Intern

Diane Geary, Backup Center Secretary

Benita Jain, Immigrant Defense Project Staff
Attorney

Jacqueline Kirkpatrick, Training Coordinator

Shahrul Ladue, Backup Center Legal Secretary

Alfred O'Connor, Backup Center Staff Attorney

Farah Seneque, Immigrant Defense Project
High School Intern

Paul Seo, Immigrant Defense Project College
Intern

Ken Strutin, Director of Legal Information
Services

Manuel D. Vargas, Immigrant Defense Project
Senior Counsel

Isaac Wheeler, Volunteer Hotline Attorney
from Bronx Defenders

Marianne C. Yang, Immigrant Defense Project
Director

Client Advisory Board

Marion H. Hathaway (Chair), New York City
(Client Board Member, Harlem Legal
Services and Member, National Clients
Council, Project Advisory Group)

Lenore Banks, Buffalo (Off-Board Judicial
Specialist, League of Women Voters of New
York State and NYSDA Liaison to the League)

Alison Coleman, Albany (Director, Prison
Families of New York)

Jay Coleman, Albany (Re-entry specialist and
former prisoner)

Charles Culhane, Buffalo (Poet and prisoner)

Juan Dones, Sr., New York City (Counselor, ATI
Programs, The Fortune Society)

Robert Flunory, Albany (Former prisoner)

Alice P. Green, Ph.D., Albany (Director, Center
for Law & Justice)

Kevin Halpin, Albany (Entrepreneur and for-
mer public defense client)

Darryl P. King, Brooklyn (Wrongfully convict-
ed former prisoner)

Velma Smith, Rochester (Director, Rural
Opportunities, Inc. [Brockport])

Paquita Y. Wheeler, Cornelius, NC (Client
advocate with over 20 years experience)

Celebrating the Call for Reform

To “ensure accountability, enforceability of standards, and quality of representation,” New York needs to restructure the way it provides public defense services. This initial, overarching call, reflecting what NYSDA and others have long advocated, introduces the much anticipated recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense appointed by Chief Judge Judith Kaye in 2004.

Last year, NYSDA’s Annual Report celebrated the emergence of standards for mandated representation specific to New York State. We noted that standards approved by NYSDA’S Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Chief Defenders of New York in 2004, together with standards adopted by the New York State Bar Association in 2005, were “showing the way toward better practice.” These standards are useful tools, but no mechanisms exist to enforce them.

This year we celebrate the Kaye Commission’s call for a new statewide, state-funded public defense system headed by an independent commission and structured to ensure enforceable standards, quality representation, and accountability. We urge our members, our friends, our clients, and everyone who understands that quality representation for the poor is vital to justice, to celebrate with us.

The need for reform is pressing. Ensuring that the Kaye Commission’s recommendations become reality quickly and in a way that ends the long-standing crisis in defense services is the best way to celebrate.

Sharing Ideas, Building Coalitions

The Kaye Commission report and the extensive supporting document prepared by its consultant, The Spangenberg Group (TSG), are available online. NYSDA’s website, www.nysda.org, links to the reports and to press coverage of their release. We will continue to cover others’ responses to the Kaye Commission’s call.

We encourage lively, constructive conversations about the new public defense system that has been proposed. We will host Chief Defender Convenings about the

“An essential qualification for all candidates [for membership on the Defense Commission] should be a firm commitment to the principle of independence of the defense function.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 28

“The Chief Defender should assist the Commission with the promulgation of standards for performance of the indigent defense function and ensure that those standards are monitored and enforced in all regional and local defender offices.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 30

“The system for funding indigent criminal defense services should provide for elimination of the overall disparity between prosecution and defense resources so as to achieve ‘adequate and balanced funding’ [of] defense representation.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 33

“The Commission should . . . in conjunction with the Chief Defender, make annual recommendations to the Chief Judge, Governor and the Legislature to improve the administration of the criminal justice system and the statewide indigent defense system.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 29

Kaye Commission’s outline for a statewide public defender office with a Chief Defender, Regional and Local Defender Offices, and Appeals and Conflict components. The Chiefs will also look at the suggestions in the Kaye Commission report’s Addendum for interim steps, most involving new court rules, which could have both immediate and long-term effects on defense practice.

NYSDA will work with Chief Judge Kaye and the Unified Court System as they take their next steps toward reform. We will continue to work with others who have an interest in effective implementation of the Kaye Commission’s recommendations. We recognize the contributions of and will continue working with other bar associations, including the State Bar, the New York County Lawyers Association (whose lawsuit helped raise assigned counsel rates in 2003), and the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (who proposed a public defense reform bill before the Kaye Commission finalized its call). We will work with the Committee for an Independent Public Defense Commission, whose prestigious membership includes the architects of the current statutory public defense scheme (County Law article 18-B), who are rare individuals willing to say that their plan, devised with the best intentions, has failed and must be replaced.

We will work with individual Chief Defenders as they continue their daily struggles to provide quality representation with too few resources in a broken system while also envisioning how change should look in their particular jurisdiction to improve the quality of representation. We will work with them as they evaluate proposed court innovations affecting defense practice, suggest improvements, and adjust to implemented changes.

Through our Client Advisory Board, we will work with the client community to ensure that clients are not forgotten as technical concerns and political interests are brought to bear on the Kaye Commission’s recommendations.

At every opportunity, we will celebrate the Kaye Commission’s recommendations for reform by advocating for that reform.

Changing to Effect Change

Change is necessary to effect change. So while NYSDA's Backup Center will continue its multifaceted mission to improve the quality of representation for poor people, the Association will also embark on a new facet of that mission. The statewide system outlined in the Kaye Commission report cannot jump fully-formed from the eight pages that outline it. The plan must pass through public and political deliberative processes, with all the benefits and pitfalls inherent therein. Creation of a 501(c)4 corporation, the New York State Defenders Association Justice Fund (Justice Fund), will provide lobbying capabilities so that, on behalf of our clients, we can have a voice in that process.

We celebrate the Kaye Commission's recognition that change is necessary, and that it must be statewide. We celebrate the opportunity for New York State to devise a system that allows every locality to embrace best public defense practices, that protects local defenders from pressure to give less than professional representation to clients who cannot afford to pay for legal services, and that establishes accountability so that substandard practice, which harms individual clients, wastes resources, and erodes faith in the justice system, is identified and raised.

NYSDA Noted

NYSDA's work is referenced throughout the Kaye Commission's Final Report—including in the Addendum addressing immediate steps the Unified Court System can take to improve public defense—as well as in the Spangenberg Report. Both reports recognize our work to improve the representation offered by individual offices and lawyers as well as our studies and analyses of system-wide deficiencies. In its Finding 24, TSG notes that NYSDA “has provided critical and substantial assistance and encouragement to indigent defense providers throughout the state for many years.” From the Backup Center's more than two decades of supporting public defense programs came information to aid TSG in its study and the Kaye Commission in its analysis and final recommendations.

“For budgetary reasons only, the Commission should be housed in the judicial branch. In all other respects, it must be independent of all governmental influence.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 28

“... NYSDA has filed over 20 reports since 1981 covering a variety of problems with New York's indigent defense system and has held a number of public hearings to address these problems.”

Spangenberg Report, p. 24

“We heard a number of times in our site work that defenders rely on this [NYSDA] training course as virtually their sole means of defense training.”

Spangenberg Report, p. 24

“The enactment of the Indigent Defense Commission plan should be followed by an expeditious phase-in schedule that sets reasonable time limits for [implementation steps].”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 31

Our Work in the Past Year at a Glance

While working for public defense reform by gathering and disseminating information about system-wide problems to TSG and others, NYSDA continued in the past twelve months to do what it has done through the Backup Center since its inception. Among these activities:

- ❖ planning and presenting high-quality, affordable CLE training and other educational and advocacy efforts such as the NYSDA website and publications. As the Spangenberg Report notes, NYSDA training is the primary source of CLE credits for many public defense attorneys.
- ❖ offering technical assistance to help public defense offices run more effectively and efficiently. NYSDA’s Public Defense Case Management System helps defenders in twenty-two counties collect, analyze, and accurately report public defense data for both office management and state reporting, the latter capability being one too often lacking according to the Spangenberg Report. Backup Center staff consult with Chief Defenders, provide standards and other information to support office budget requests, improve program design, etc.
- ❖ assisting attorneys through direct defender services like providing information for contacting potential expert witnesses and initial research on unique issues.
- ❖ guiding attorneys representing non-citizen clients in criminal matters through the thickets of potential immigration consequences. As noted in the Spangenberg Report, many public defense providers lack training and knowledge about such collateral consequences. NYSDA’s Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) not only provides direct assistance and training to lawyers but also provides information and education to immigrant communities.
- ❖ soliciting and analyzing the opinions and needs of the client community through the meetings and activities of the Client Advisory Board.

The Past Twelve Months in Detail

Planning and Presenting High-Quality, Affordable CLE Training

Well-attended, consistently earning high evaluations from those attending, NYSDA's CLE programs provide relevant training for lawyers from rural counties and urban courts. In the past year, NYSDA sponsored or co-sponsored:

- ❖ The annual week-long Defender Institute Basic Trial Skills Program on the RPI campus in Troy;
- ❖ The two-day training at the 2005 NYSDA Annual Meeting and Conference in Saratoga Springs;
- ❖ Four one-day regional trainers;
- ❖ Three one-day family court trainers;
- ❖ Two one-day federal trainers;
- ❖ One two-hour SORA trainer; and
- ❖ Four one-CLE-credit luncheon trainings

Important ingredients in successful training include skilled, knowledgeable faculty—including NYSDA's own Al O'Connor—who provide useful training materials. Well-organized logistics—scheduling, registration, etc.—are also key. Backup Center Legal Secretary Shahrul Ladue's skills in ensuring that training programs run smoothly have benefited attending lawyers and the Backup Center alike. Assisted this year by Diane Geary, Shahrul has recently been working not just on CLE trainings but on training his replacement, Jacqueline Kirkpatrick. Welcome, Jacky, and best wishes, Shahrul!

Offering Technical Assistance to Help Public Defense Offices Run More Effectively and Efficiently

Recognizing over a decade ago that automation would be vital for public defense offices, NYSDA developed, and

“The Commission . . . recommends that the New York State Defenders Association, perhaps under the sponsorship of the New York State Judicial Institute, develop joint training protocols.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. AD-3

“In some instances NYSDA must wholly subsidize new defenders' attendance at their Basic Trial Skills Program, which was [c]ited by many defenders during our site work as an excellent program that should be mandatory for defenders.”

Spangenberg Report, p. 24, n. 88

A number of issues affect the ability of the providers to complete [required state] forms accurately. Indigent defense providers do not have uniform case management systems, and, as such, may count cases differently.”

Spangenberg Report, p. 33

“The Indigent Defense Commission should have the responsibility for ensuring that quality legal representation is provided on a consistent basis throughout the state, independent of parochial or private interests.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 27

continues to upgrade and support, an automated Public Defense Case Management System (PDCMS). The most widely used system in New York State, PDCMS has proven to be a powerful tool to help defender offices efficiently manage cases and serve clients more effectively. Now installed in twenty-six offices in twenty-two counties, this software allows public defense providers to collect and furnish required data to the State and quickly access client and case information (to identify conflicts that would bar representation in a new case, aid in developing negotiation and investigation strategies, etc.).

Offices using PDCMS receive award-winning support—initial demonstrations of the software; site visits, data conversion, installation, and training; and development of site-specific functionalities, trouble-shooting on site or via remote access, and updates. Project Manager Darlene Dollard, who is instrumental in PDCMS development and support, received a “Best of New York 2006” Leadership Award for “Demonstrated Excellence in IT Operations, Support and Service” from the Center for Digital Government.

Other forms of technical assistance include providing available data and analysis of public defense and criminal justice issues to public defense offices and others dealing with issues of budget, staffing, program design, etc. Among the Backup Center staff who work on such issues is Managing Attorney Charles F. O’Brien

Assisting Attorneys through Direct Defender Services

After a Backup Center Staff Attorney emailed to a public defense lawyer both substantive forensic information and a list of potential experts to assist in a Driving While Intoxicated case, the lawyer replied that he had shared the substantive information with all the attorneys in his office. He added: “I’m following up with the experts. You guys are awesome. :)”

The phrase “you guys” encompassed all those at the Public Defense Backup Center who find and update the resources that lawyers need. These staff members

include Ken Strutin, Director of Legal Information Services, who found the substantive information for the DWI case mentioned above. He updates the NYSDA website (www.nysda.org), keeps the legal staff informed of new legal, technological, and other developments relevant to criminal defense and public representation, and researches issues as needed. Sheila Cui, Legal Information Specialist, updates the expert database, performs research, catalogs new material, and completes other library tasks. Legal Intern Dan Derasmo has surveyed city court jury venire practices, worked to update information in the expert directory, and completed other research requests as well as assisted in production of the case summaries found in the Association's newsletter.

These staff members make it possible for the Backup Center to respond to a high number of direct defender services requests. Requests for Backup Center assistance logged in the past year increased to nearly 1800. Requests come from across the state by telephone, fax, mail, and increasingly by email and website request form. The Backup Center legal staff responded to a variety of needs, from mid-trial requests for the latest information on areas of developing law like the right to confront witnesses and changes in sentencing law to a request for mock oral argument in an important appellate matter.

Guiding Attorneys Representing Non-Citizen Clients in Criminal Matters

In a variety of ways, the Immigrant Defense Project (IDP) helps immigrants whose immigration status may be affected by current or past criminal charges. By offering CLE training and law school presentations, IDP has for several years sought to ensure that future clients will not be mis-advised about the potential consequences of pleading guilty or have their immigration status ignored. Always looking for new avenues to educate the criminal justice community about immigration consequences, in 2006 IDP participated in meetings of criminal justice and reentry advocates convened by Chief Judge Judith Kaye. These sessions addressed development of a website

“Throughout this study, one of the most positive themes we heard was the consistent help and encouragement that many of the indigent defense providers have received over the last two decades from NYSDA staff.”

Spangenberg Report, pg 24

“Defense providers are not providing the requisite counseling with regard to collateral issues that can affect critically a defendant's case, especially those regarding a defendant's immigration status.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 24

“[A]t least one institutional provider. . . [of those studied] has two attorneys that have been trained and receive support from NYSDA in their handling of immigration consequences.”

Spangenberg Report, p. 89

dedicated to educating judges and criminal justice advocates about collateral consequences of criminal convictions and an upcoming colloquium on the same topic.

As part of its involvement with the nationwide Defending Immigrants Partnership (DIP), IDP continued to develop and support a network of in-house immigration experts at indigent criminal defense programs throughout New York State and participated in a second national training of defense attorneys.

IDP staff provided legal advice and support in response to nearly 1200 requests for assistance on criminal/immigration issues, from attorneys and from immigrants (or family/friends) themselves. The IDP’s hotline, 718-858-9658 ext. 201, is staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and requests are addressed at other times as staff schedules permit.

Other forms of advocacy and assistance provided by IDP include publication and distribution of legal resource materials such as IDP’s new pamphlet, *“Citizenship Guide for Lawful Permanent Residents: Have You Ever Been Arrested By the Police?”* and Immigration Practice Tips columns in the *Public Defense Backup Center REPORT*. In spring 2006 IDP launched a new website, at www.immigrantdefenseproject.org. The website offers numerous IDP and other legal materials free of charge, providing low-income immigrants with better access to justice. A fourth edition of the very well-known IDP manual, *Representing Noncitizen Defendants in New York State*, is in production.

Broader advocacy included implementation of a national impact litigation initiative to challenge the federal government’s broadest and most unfair interpretations of what constitutes a drug-related “aggravated felony” ground of mandatory deportation. IDP actively monitored and supported legal challenges in federal court cases around the country, developed a coordinated national legal and amicus strategy, submitted amicus briefs in support of Supreme Court *cert.* grants, recruited amici and recruited and mentored authors of amicus briefs to support a favorable Supreme Court resolution of this issue. Two cases now before the US Supreme Court, *Lopez v*

Gonzales and *US v Toledo-Flores*, squarely raise the issue of whether a state drug offense that has no trafficking element may nevertheless be deemed a “drug trafficking crime” “aggravated felony.”

IDP has been actively engaged in analyzing proposed sweeping Congressional changes to immigration laws, working to educate members of Congress, immigrant advocates, and the public about the dangers of several provisions to immigrants and their communities. Passage of these measures will require informed advocates to understand how best to press immigrants’ opportunities to legalize under it if at all, and to assess and advise immigrants of the risks of going forward with a legalization application.

The Center for Community Alternatives now houses IDP in affordable space at:

NYSDA Immigrant Defense Project
25 Chapel Street, Suite 703
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1954

As IDP Director Marianne Yang, Senior Counsel Manuel D. Vargas, and Staff Attorney Benita Jain perform the many services set out above, they have the assistance of Legal Interns Rose Cahn and Josh Epstein, College Intern Paul Seo, and High School Intern Farah Seneque. Helping handle the high volume of telephone requests for assistance is Isaac Wheeler, Volunteer Hotline Attorney from Bronx Defenders.

Soliciting and Analyzing the Opinions and Needs of the Client Community

To ensure that the Association considers the ideas and concerns of the client community, NYSDA’s by-laws mandate a Client Advisory Board consisting of “a widespread cross-section of persons, at least 50% of whom are poor people or their legitimate representatives.” At its meeting during the 2005 Annual Meeting and Conference, the Advisory Board adopted its Client-Centered Representation Standards, which were approved and

“[N]othing short of major, far-reaching, reform can ensure that New York meets its constitutional and statutory obligations to provide quality representation to every indigent - person accused”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 33

“Experts from across New York State and elsewhere identified a host of major problems in the system and a consensus was reached as to the components for a quality defense system . . . [including] (5) development of a client-centered ethos.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 13

“[A Chief Defender] said that the Public Defense Backup Center ‘fosters well-trained defense attorneys that reduce delay, unnecessary incarceration and claims of ineffective representation that can result in costly reversals and retrials’ and ‘provides excellent support.’”

Spangenberg Report, p. 24

endorsed by the Association’s Board of Directors on October 7, 2005.

Developed independently by the Advisory Board, these standards address many of the same issues covered in the NYSDA, State Bar, and several sets of national standards for mandated representation. Distributed to defender offices and posted on the NYSDA website, these standards provide a mechanism for public defense offices and attorneys to measure their client-centered performance. They also provide a basis for developing the “client-centered ethos” found by the Kaye Commission to be a vital component of a quality defense system.

Maintaining the Backup Center

From its quarters in the capital city of Albany, NYSDA’s Public Defense Backup Center provides its services, many already described, in furtherance of the NYSDA Mission Statement (found at the beginning of this report). Other Backup Center support services are set out below.

Publishing Information

It is at the Backup Center that the Association’s newsletter, the *Public Defense Backup Center REPORT*, is published, edited by Mardi Crawford. The *REPORT* includes summaries of appellate decisions, prepared with the help of the entire legal staff. The summaries are also imported into NYSDA’s Case Digest System, a legal research software application available by subscription, with regular updates provided on CD-ROM.

The *REPORT* also contains Practice Tips, legal and public defense news items, reprints of articles, and other information. Every issue of the *REPORT* is mailed to all public defense offices in New York State, to all members, and to prison law libraries; it is also posted on the website.

Use of the extensive website, www.nysda.org, continues to grow; over 10,000 visitors viewed almost 35,000 pages on the site in March 2006, for example. The webmaster is Director of Information Systems David L. Austin, who not only keeps NYSDA online, but also keeps its

internal information systems functioning. He seeks to keep NYSDA's electronic information systems secure from damage due to power outages, computer viruses, etc., and sees that unavoidable damage is quickly repaired, spending long weekend hours when a server goes down.

Supporting the Support Center

Persons calling the Backup Center about its publications and other services need not cope with a voice menu during business hours. Secretary Bridget Baggott directs telephone calls; she also prepares and tracks direct defender services files and provides secretarial assistance.

Accountant Mary Durgee handles the Association's finances, which involve state contracts, multiple grants, donations, and membership dues. Dawn Allert keeps membership records and reaches out to potential new members; as Office Coordinator she also works to ensure that staff have the supplies and equipment they need.

Executive Assistant Barbara Baggott works directly with Executive Director Jonathan E. Gradess on many activities, including preparing written analyses of public defense issues and preparing for board meetings and others that NYSDA hosts.

Chief Defender Convenings

NYSDA periodically hosts Chief Defender Convenings to which the heads of all public defense programs in New York State are invited. It was at such a Convening two years ago that the Chiefs voted to support creation of an independent public defense commission and approved the *Standards for Providing Constitutionally and Statutorily Mandated Legal Representation in New York State*. The recommendations of the Kaye Commission will no doubt be taken up by the Chiefs in the near future.

Following a recent Convening, the Chiefs issued a resolution opposing proposed legislation that would allow civil commitment of some sex offenders following completion of their criminal sentences. Noting that civil commitment is costly and unproven to reduce offenses, the Chiefs suggested the Legislature focus instead on proven

“[T]he time for further study is over. The crisis in indigent representation in this state is a well documented fact. The time for action is now.”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 34

“Adequate funding of indigent criminal defense must be provided by the New York State Legislature from the State’s General Fund”

Kaye Commission Report, p. 32

methods of reducing sexual assault. The Chiefs also criticized weaknesses of the specific legislation, including lack of coherent design in how counsel would be provided to persons threatened with civil commitment. The Backup Center has been actively studying developments around the issue of civil commitment, with research assistance by Research Associate Andrew Davies.

In addition to the statewide Chief Defender Convenings, NYSDA has encouraged regional meetings as well. Backup Center Staff Attorney Stephanie Batcheller attended Convenings of the Fifth and the Eighth Judicial District Chiefs this past year, offering Backup Center materials and support. Chief Defenders of the Capital District (Third and Fourth Judicial Districts) have also met.

NYSDA Members 2006

Composed primarily of attorneys, NYSDA's membership also includes other professionals, students, and others who support the Association's work to uphold the Constitutional guarantees of legal representation to all accused of crimes and to advocate for an effective system of public defense representation for the poor.

Anthony D. Abbarno
Glenn R. Abolafia
Gary Abramson
F. Stanton Ackerman
Carl F.W. Adamec
Salvatore C. Adamo
Christine Adamowicz
David R. Addelman
Martin B. Adelman
Fern S. Adelstein
Jerry M. Ader
Anthony Jason Adinolfi
Mark A. Adrian
Adewole D. Agbayewa
Louis R. Aidala
Rosalyn Akalonu
Michael M. Albanese
Jimmie Lee Allen
Dawn M. Allert
Michael Alperstein
Mark H. Alquist
Leana Elyse Amaez
Francis C. Amendola
Michael C. Anastasiou
Elena J. Ancona
Ann Leonard Anderson
Leigh E. Anderson
Lawrence J. Andolina
Kleon C. Andreadis
John J. Andrews
Thomas E. Andruschat
Marina Angel
Toni Marie Angeli
Thomas N. Angell
John A. Annechino
Francis J. Apicella
Noha M. Arafa
Joseph L. Arbour
Donna Arnold
Courtney Aronowsky
Michael Aronowsky

Randy G. Attea
Del Atwell
Adrienne Austin
Bernard Bacharach
Barbara A. Baggott
Jeffrey N. Bagnoli
Karen Bailey Turner
James A. Baker
Jacqueline L. Balikowski
Erin Bannister
Patrick Bannon
Paul Barahal
Richard J. Barbuto
William Barnes
Devinn Barnette
Bruce Baron
Michael F. Barone
Alexsis T. Barravecchia
Felice Barry
Peter A. Barta
Paul S. Barton
Michael E. Basile
Jason Bassett
Peter J. Batalla, Jr.
Stephanie Batcheller
Paul A. Battiste
Robin J. Bauer
Ruth E. Baum
Kenneth Bazil
Richard E. Beaman
Robert H. Beck
Carl Becker
Marie B. Beckford
Rosalind Becton
John Bedaska
Melissa Bednarz
Ronald J. Bekoff
Myron Beldock
George S. Bellantoni
Debra K. Bender
Steven B. Bengart

Deetza G. Benno
Michael G. Benvie
Roberto Beras
Catherine Armitage Berchou
Peter Bergenstock
Richard Berger
Joyce Berkowitz
Norman M. Berle
Jerrold Berman
Adele Bernhard
Samuel A. Bernstein
David H. Besso
Stanley Bethune
Susan BetzJitomir
Dennis Biancanello
Randi Juda Bianco
Stephen J. Bird
Alan Birnholz
Scott M. Bishop
Gary Bitetti
Nancy J. Bizub
Jennifer Z. Blackhall
George R. Blair, Jr.
Frank E. Blando
Jon S. Blechman
Marilyn J. Bleser
David M. Block
Jeffrey C. Bloom
Joel L. Blumenfeld
Wayne C. Bodden
Daniel Boeck
Richard G. Boehm
Frank M. Bogulski
Elyse K. Bohm
Senora Bolarinwa
Henry Bolden
Robert Bolm
William F. Bonez
Eftihia Bourtis
Brandon E. Boutelle
Jason Bowman

Mary-Jean Bowman
 Robert J. Boyle
 Damian J. Brady
 Joseph Brady
 Elinor Braitman
 Kirk R. Brandt
 John Braslow
 Roger Brazill
 Christopher John Brechtel
 Mark H. Brenner
 Thomas E. Brett
 George A. Brimmer, II
 Richard J. Brink
 Kissa Broadie
 William D. Broderick, Jr.
 Felice A. Brodsky
 Matthew E. Brooks
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