

I want to share with you the news that Governor Cuomo has signed this OCA Program Bill (S.7209-A/A.10360). This legislation authorizes the Chief Administrator of the Courts to adopt, after consultation with ILS, the local magistrates association, providers of mandated legal representation, the district attorney and local government officials, a plan for establishing off-hour arraignment parts in each county to “facilitate the availability of public defenders or assigned counsel for defendants in need of legal representation at such proceedings.”

We congratulate Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks and his team for their successful advocacy; and we thank the legislature including Senator John Bonacic and Assemblyman Joe Lentol for their sponsorship of this important legislation. We look forward to working with all involved to assist in the effective implementation of this law.

Bill Leahy and Joe Wierschem