

The attached article in today's New York Law Journal, authored by Nora Christenson, ILS *Hurrell-Harring* Implementation Attorney – Caseload Relief, describes the tremendous achievement by the eleven providers of mandated criminal defense representation in the 5 lawsuit counties of Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Suffolk and Washington, in meeting the 2016 Caseload Standards that ILS issued pursuant to its responsibility to implement the terms of the 2014 Settlement Agreement in that case. The ILS Standards allow public defense attorneys, whether institutional or assigned, considerably more time for the representation of each client than do the 1973 National Advisory Commission (NAC) Standards, which recommended a 400 misdemeanor or 150 felony annual case assignment cap.

Of critical significance is Nora's point linking caseload standards compliance with the ultimate goal of transformative quality improvement: "*Hurrell-Harring* providers have transformed their criminal defense practices by adding new staff, bolstering infrastructure, enhancing access to necessary resources, and restructuring internally." We congratulate the counties, the providers, and our HH Implementation Unit under the leadership of Patricia Warth on this tremendously successful turnaround. We again thank Governor Cuomo, the Assembly and the Senate for their funding support that has allowed us to accomplish this transformation. We also thank the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) for their indispensable support of our efforts.

For the remainder of New York counties which, in consultation and cooperation with the ILS Statewide Implementation Unit under the leadership of Joanne Macri, are now embarking on the path toward compliance with Constitutional requirements, this article provides a guide for what can be accomplished, and how it has been accomplished in the counties subject to the HH settlement. We pledge to continue working cooperatively with every county and every provider to achieve complete statewide compliance with the Settlement reforms, now enacted into law by Executive Law § 832 (4) (2017), no later than the statutory compliance date of April 1, 2023.

Best regards,

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