

Attached please find a copy of Chief Judge Janet DiFiore's State of Our Judiciary speech, which she delivered earlier today at the Court of Appeals.

I would draw your attention to section D on page 8, where the Chief Judge describes the broad political support that underlies our implementation in every county of the key *Hurrell-Harring* (HH) reforms: "counsel at arraignment, caseload caps for attorneys, and improvements in the quality of representation[.]" As it happened, both our HH team under the leadership of Patricia Warth and our Statewide Implementation team under the leadership of Joanne Macri were on the road doing their work today in Suffolk and Oneida counties, respectively, even as the Chief Judge was speaking.

Everyone knows that parental representation has been neglected thus far in the exciting public defense reforms that are taking place in New York. We are therefore delighted that the Chief Judge has asked Karen Peters, former Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Third Department, "to lead a new **Commission on Parental Legal Representation** to examine the current state of mandated Family Court representation and determine how best to ensure the future delivery of quality, cost-effective parental representation." (p. 14, emphasis supplied). The Commission "will work with the Office of Indigent Legal Services – particularly Director of Quality Enhancement, Angela Burton – to build upon the groundwork being done across the State to improve the quality of parental legal representation." (pp. 14-15). Indeed, Judge Peters spoke with Angela and me immediately following the address. We could not be more pleased with the establishment of the commission, and with the selection of Judge Peters as its leader.

Finally, with respect to Centralized Arraignment Parts, the Chief Judge identified Ontario, Warren, Otsego and Livingston counties as the next locations for the establishment of CAPs; joining the counties of Broome, Oneida, Onondaga and Washington (pp. 7-8).

Best wishes,

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