

On Friday, December 1, we submitted to the Director of the Division of the Budget the written plans for statewide implementation of counsel at arraignment [§832 (4) (a)], caseload relief [§832 (4) (b)], and initiatives to improve the quality of public defense [§ 832 (4) (c)]. A copy of the statute is attached.

Production of these plans was a herculean effort, under the leadership of Chief Statewide Implementation Attorney Joanne Macri and Director of Research Andy Davies, with very significant help from their ILS colleagues. We would like to express our thanks to the scores of public defense leaders, county and city officials who offered their generous and collaborative support of our effort to identify what it will take for each locality to achieve a quality of representation that honors the Sixth Amendment and our State Constitution. Without their assistance, the construction of these detailed plans would not have been possible.

As specified in the statewide reform statute, these plans were “submitted by the office to the director of the division of the budget for review and approval....” Thus, the plans themselves will not be released while they are under review. Beginning in January, we will be meeting again with providers and officials in every county and New York City to further identify the full extent of local needs, and prioritize the most urgent among them. Please direct any questions you may have about these plans to ILS Counsel Joe Wierschem, Joanne Macri or me.

Best wishes,

Bill