

2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

In 2015 the Public Defender's Office reviewed 1453 Applications for Assigned Counsel under the terms of the County Law. Of the 1453 applications initially processed, 340 were recognized as conflicts and referred to Allegany-Cattaraugus Legal Services, Inc. or to the Assigned Counsel Administrator. 90 applications were denied on the basis of financial or other ineligibility.

A total of 1112 cases were opened. They included:

482	Misdemeanors
109	Felonies
335	Family Court Matters (73 Support/Paternity)
75	Violations of Probation
22	Parole Violations
11	IDV Court Case

The majority of funding from the State of New York continues to be distributed through a grant process administered by the Office of Indigent Legal Services. In January of 2015 we applied for Distribution #5 which totals \$211,302.00 over a three-year period. This Distribution allowed our office to eliminate our part-time secretary position and create an additional full-time secretary position. Janelle Owen became full-time in June of 2015. Distribution #5 also replaced the expired Distribution #2 which funds a portion of our second assistant position. Finally, Distribution #5 allowed a salary increase for the full-time secretary position responsible for Grant Claims and other administrative tasks.

Most recently our office has applied for Distribution #6 totaling \$105,651 over a three-year period. This Distribution will replace Distribution #3 which will expire in May 2016. This will continue funding approximately half of the second full-time secretary position as well as maintaining funding for the CLE and Experts/Evaluations budget lines. A portion is also earmarked for the office supply budget line due to an increased need because of our expanding staff.

As always, the Allegany County Public Defender's Office remains committed to the zealous representation of our clients and the protection of the rights they enjoy by virtue of the constitution and the laws of the State of New York.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara J. Kelley
Allegany County Public Defender