

# New York State Bar Association

One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207 • 518/463-3200 • <http://www.nysba.org>



**DAVID P. MIRANDA**

President, New York State Bar Association

Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.  
5 Columbia Circle  
Albany, NY 12203  
518/452-5600  
FAX 518/452-5579  
[dpm@hrfmlaw.com](mailto:dpm@hrfmlaw.com)

March 18, 2016

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

As you know, this week both houses of the Legislature included in their respective one-house budget proposals the matter of state funding and oversight of indigent criminal defense services.

The Legislature's proposals relate to the 2014 settlement of the *Hurrell-Harring v. State* case, which ensures that the state provide funding to meet the constitutional obligation for services to indigent criminal defendants in Suffolk, Ontario, Onondaga, Schuyler and Washington counties.

This is a topic on which the State Bar Association has long advocated, and which is a legislative priority for the Association this session. I have enclosed our memorandum in support of legislation.

As you work with the Legislature during the 2016-2017 budget process, I urge that the final budget include provisions that would move New York State toward meeting its constitutional obligation to provide effective criminal defense services for all indigent New Yorkers.

Respectfully,

David P. Miranda

c: Alphonso David