

On April 26, 2021, in her capacity as Chair and on behalf of the Indigent Legal Services Board, Chief Judge DiFiore notified Governor Cuomo of the Board's decision to nominate ILS Counsel Patricia Warth to serve as the next Director of the Office of Indigent Legal Services. In her letter, the Chief Judge referenced Patricia's career-long commitment to public defense, and her strong commitment to cultivating a culture of diversity and respect for individuals of all backgrounds. She specifically highlighted Patricia's outstanding leadership implementing the *Hurrell-Harring* Settlement reforms as head of the ILS HH Implementation Unit from 2015-2019, and her excellent performance as ILS Counsel from 2019 to now.

This nomination became effective by operation of law on June 2, 2021.

Patricia replaces Bill Leahy, whose last day as ILS Director was June 1, 2021. On his last day, Bill emailed the following message to mandated providers, local officials, the ILS Board, and other colleagues:

Thank you, one and all. Suddenly it's my last day at ILS. And, of course, packed with meetings! So, this "closing argument" will be brief.

We've come a long way. That's the first piece of good news I leave with you. The second is that we are very well positioned to consolidate our important advances and break new ground as well.

Fulfilling the dream and the promise of *Gideon v. Wainwright* is a long, multi-decade, multi-generation struggle. It has been such a pleasure to play a part in New York's awakening over the past decade. I look forward with great expectations to the years ahead.

This email prompted many to remark on Bill's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of mandated representation. The remark below best captures the sentiments expressed by many:

Rest assured you leave an office that is well-positioned to continue the important work you've done. New York's indigent legal system is much better off today than when you started. We all owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude.