

Hurrell-Harring Lawsuit

In 2007, just one year after the release of [The Final Report of Chief Judge Kaye's Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services \(Kaye Commission Report\)](#), the New York Civil Liberties Union sued New York State alleging that the State had systematically and structurally denied meaningful and effective representation to defendants entitled to publicly funded representation in violation of their Sixth Amendment right to counsel. The Hurrell-Harring (HH) plaintiffs included criminal defendants from five counties with diverse methods of delivering public defense services ranging from public defender offices to legal aid societies to assigned private counsel. Subsequent to the filing of the lawsuit, the five counties were added as defendants. They are:

1. Onondaga County;
2. Ontario County;
3. Schuyler County;
4. Suffolk County; and
5. Washington County

A [Settlement](#) was reached in October 2014, which the Albany County Supreme Court approved on March 11, 2015.

Lawsuit Documents

[Complaint](#)

[Court of Appeals Decision](#)

[Hurrell-Harring Final Settlement](#)

Announcements and News

November 14, 2014

[Director Leahy's Letter to Attorney General Holder re: DOJ Statement of Interest](#)

November 10, 2014

[NY Law Journal: Indigent Legal Services OKs \\$950K Budget Boost](#)

October 26, 2014

[NY Times: A Rare Victory For Public Defense](#)

October 22, 2014

[ILS Director Leahy's Statement](#)

[New York State Defenders Association Statement](#)

[Chief Defenders Association of New York Statement](#)

[NY Times: Governor Pledges More Aid](#)

[Daily Record: State Accepts Responsibility for Public Defense](#)

[New York Law Journal: Plaintiffs Hope To Broaden Indigent Defense Pact](#)

October 21, 2014

[New York Civil Liberties Union Statement](#)

[Governor Cuomo's Statement](#)

[Attorney General Schneiderman's Statement](#)

Additional Resources

[The Kaye Commission Report \(2006\)](#)

Last updated on October 24, 2019.

[Hurrell-Harring Settlement](#)

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