

Dear ILS Board members, mandated representation leaders, county and city officials, and members of the ILS staff,

I want to share with you the very good news that the Executive Budget released today provides a total of \$161,247,000 in funding for the Office of Indigent Legal Services for the coming fiscal year. Of this amount, \$155,530,000 is to be appropriated as Aid to Localities, including full funding for continued *Hurrell-Harring* implementation in the five counties, and \$50,720,000 for the first year of statewide implementation of the *Hurrell-Harring* Settlement reforms. In addition, the \$5,717,000 devoted to State Operations should enable us to annualize salaries of the employees of our Statewide Implementation Unit, and add a few members to our overall office staff. Please see the attached budget chart for a more detailed breakout of the numbers, and a comparison to this year's funding.

We want to thank Governor Cuomo and his staff for fulfilling the promise of the April, 2017 statewide reform legislation in this very challenging budget year. We will continue to work cooperatively and effectively with his staff, the providers of mandated representation and city and county officials, with the guidance and support of the Chair and members of our Board, to make the Sixth Amendment right to the effective Assistance of Counsel a reality for every client, in every locality, in every court.

Best wishes,

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