

Dear Board members and colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce my selection of Joanne Macri, Esq. as Statewide Chief Implementation Attorney for the Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS). In this position, Joanne will lead our new statewide unit, funded in this year's state budget, that will create and implement plans to extend the *Hurrell-Harring* settlement reforms to every county including New York City.

We could not have found a person better suited to accomplishing this historic task. As ILS Director of Regional Initiatives since January, 2013, Joanne created and has overseen our network of statewide Regional Immigration Assistance Centers, and she also guides and advises the North Country and Western New York regional appellate programs. Before coming to ILS, Joanne worked with the statewide defender community as a Board member of NYSDA and later as the Director of NYSDA's Immigrant Defense Project and Criminal Defense Immigration Project. She currently serves as a member of the New York State Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking and the OCA Advisory Committee on Family and Immigration Law.

Joanne is already working with our county and city partners and providers, many of whom already know her well and admire her commitment to the challenge of ensuring that every client receives the effective representation to which he or she is entitled by the Constitution and the law. As she builds her statewide implementation unit, she will be working in close cooperation with all of you and with our *Hurrell-Harring* Implementation Unit which continues to improve the quality of representation in the lawsuit counties under the excellent leadership of Patricia Warth.

Please join me in welcoming Joanne Macri as our Statewide Chief Implementation Attorney.

Best wishes,

Bill