

# Summit on Indigent Defense Services in Michigan

American Council of Chief Defenders Spring Meeting 2007

April 13, 2007 – 1:30-5:30 pm

Plaza A

Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn, Michigan

I. Overview of Michigan Assigned Counsel System

*Glenn Simmington, Esq.*

*Member, Michigan Public Defense Task Force*

*Cline, Cline & Griffen, Flint, Michigan*

II. “Chiefs and Former Chiefs” Panel, American Council of Chief Defenders (ACCD)

*Bob Boruchowitz, Seattle*

*Bill Leaby, Massachusetts*

*Ernie Lewis, Kentucky*

*Gerry Smyth, Connecticut*

The first goal of the ACCD is to “support leaders of all types of indigent defense systems through the exchange of information and ideas, training and networking.” In keeping with that principle, these current or recent assigned counsel leaders will very briefly describe the structure of their organizations and the different paths that reform has taken in their jurisdictions. They will outline their efforts to implement the ABA Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System (copy attached to this agenda), and the approaches they have taken to secure sufficient funding to provide competent legal representation to every indigent client. The program will then be open to all attendees for discussion and sharing of perspectives.

Each of these defender leaders, and other chief defenders who will be present, has experienced assigned counsel reform, whether through legislative enactments, affirmative litigation, special commissions, or all of the above. Their systems are very different, but they have all worked to obtain adequate resources to implement the *Gideon* right to counsel in their jurisdictions, and for more adequate compensation for salaried staff attorneys and assigned private counsel. Above all, they have tried always to keep the focus on what works best for the indigent client, for it is the client who is entitled to the effective assistance of counsel. We hope that this exchange of information will be of value to people who are looking at the Michigan assigned counsel system and considering how it might be improved.

III. Status Report on *Duncan v. Michigan* litigation

*Frank D. Eaman, Attorney*

*Member, Michigan Coalition for Justice*

*Frank D. Eaman, PLLC, Detroit, Michigan*