

March 1, 2001

Dear Counselor:

This letter addresses the following topics:

- 18B Compensation Update
- Changes in Assignment Procedures in District Court
- Request for Mentors
- Request for E Mail addresses
- Updated Panel of Experts

### **18B Compensation Update**

The Governor's 18B Task Force recently forwarded a lengthy questionnaire to all 18B Administrators across the State, in an effort to gain information about local procedures. I believe that their ultimate goal is to establish minimum statewide standards for 18B programs as a prerequisite to having the State pay the cost of increased 18B fees.

In speaking with the Counsel to one of the Task Force members last week, I was advised that the current thinking in Albany is that there will be legislative action this year, but no budgetary action until the State's next fiscal year (i.e. no fee increases until April 1, 2002). This is all the more reason why we need your support on March 20<sup>th</sup> when we go to Albany for Gideon Day. At present, we plan to travel in several cars. If you would like to join us, please call 747-8448 as soon as possible.

### **Change In Assignment Procedures In District Court**

Some attorneys have been accepting only Arraignment B assignments and have been unable or unwilling to fulfill their assignments in Parts 2 & 8 and in the 511 Vacate Calendar part. Arraignment B assignments will therefore be continued on a Rotating basis, but attorneys who fail to appear for their assignments in Parts 2 & 8 or in the 511 vacate calendar part will be asked to fulfill such assignment(s) before again being eligible for Arraignment B assignments.

From time to time, certain attorneys who are unable to appear personally for a given assignment, are asking other attorneys to appear in their place. This practice has resulted in multiple assignments for a small number of lawyers. Accordingly, if you are unable to fulfill an assignment personally, you should not select another attorney to appear in your place, but should advise this office with as much advance notice as possible. We will then assign another attorney to take your place.

### **Request for Mentors**

If you are willing to have a less experienced attorney serve with you as co-counsel, for no fee, in order for that attorney to qualify for our District Court Panel, please call me at 747-8448 and let me know.

### **Request for E-Mail Addresses**

It is expensive for us to communicate with 285 panel members by U.S. Mail. It is inexpensive and highly efficient for us to communicate with you by E-Mail. There are approximately 70 panel members whose E-Mail addresses are listed in the 2000-2001 Bar Association Guide. In an earlier mailing, I asked those of you who were not listed in the guide to forward me your E-Mail Address. I received 4 responses. I am aware of the effects of inertia on the human spirit and therefore reiterate my request for those of you who are not listed in the Guide to forward me your E-Mail address or call me with it at 747-8448. Please let me hear from you at the earliest possible time so that you will be included when we begin to send E-Mail notices to the panelists.

### **Updated Panel of Experts**

I am enclosing a copy of our recently updated Panel of Experts. In addition to revising the format, we have added 3 experts within the past month, each of whom has come to us with outstanding recommendations. They are:

Eric Bauman                      Psychology and Substance Abuse

Dr. Ruth Finch                  Psychiatry

Michael Sapriacone      Investigations

Please retain this list for future reference and please accept my thanks for your continued work on the panel.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. McCloskey

