

March 5, 2003

Dear Panelist,

Three items this time: Coat Safety, Gideon Day and Experts' List

COAT SAFETY

One of our attorneys recently had his overcoat stolen from the Arraignment B courtroom. He had placed it on one of the rows of seats in the gallery because there was no other place for him to put it. I am told that this is not the first incident of clothing theft in courtrooms.

I communicated with Judge Wexner about this matter and he designated two areas where the 18B attorneys of the day can store their coats while performing their assignments. They are as follows:

Arraignment B

& Parts 11 & 12 - The Room next to the Arraignment A Courtroom (Room 197). The security officer at the lobby desk has the key.

Part 9 - The coatroom in back of Part 9. Speak to the court clerk, who will assist you.

GIDEON DAY – 2003 – 40TH ANNIVERSARY

March 18, 2003 marks the 40th anniversary of **Gideon v. Wainwright**. Given Governor Pataki's budget proposal to raise the 18B Rates to \$75 and \$60 per hour, and given the 1st Department decision by Justice Lucindo Suarez to raise the Rates to \$90 per hour, this is an especially opportune time to urge our State Senators, Assemblymen and Assemblywomen to act. I am enclosing a list of state legislators from Nassau County and asking each of you to write to each of them, urging them to raise all 18B rates by amending County Law §§ 722 b and c and Judiciary Law § 35 (3).

I am not, as in years past, asking you to take 12 to 15 hours out of your schedule to come to Albany with me on March 18th. I am merely asking for 5 to 15 minutes of your time, between now and then, to communicate with people who can help. If you're too busy to give us 15 minutes, then please don't ever complain to me again about low rates. If you're not too busy, and especially if you are one of those hardy and spirited souls who have made the Albany trip in years past, please accept my thanks for your important contribution to the solution of this problem

ANNUAL UPDATED EXPERTS LIST

It's enclosed.

Best Regards,

Patrick L. McCloskey