

Write
Governor Cuomo
Legislative leaders
your own Senator and Assembly member
Send a copy to
NYSACDL
2 Wall Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10005
Or by email to: malverson@nysacdl.org

Talking points for your letter in support of continued funding ***without the proposed cuts*** may include:

NYSDA Backup Center lawyers, researchers, and staff:

- Hourly answer questions by phone, e-mail, and fax;
- Maintain and update the website www.nysda.org (accessed 30,000 times per month);
- Train statewide in small, medium, and large-scale programs;
- Respond to county and legislative requests for data;
- Annually respond to well more than 3,000 regular and immigration-related calls (through the Criminal Defense Immigration Project) for assistance from the public defense community;
- Notify public defense attorneys about legal developments through NYSDA's Public Defense Backup Center REPORT and Case Digest System (both available online);
- Provide service for nearly 6000 public defense lawyers in more than 120 county-based programs; and
- Maintain the Public Defense Case Management System (PDCMS) in 44 offices in 33 counties, the replacement cost for which would be \$20 million to counties.

NYSDA's Public Defense Backup Center:

- Those NYSACDL members who take assigned cases are well-served by the Backup Center.
- The training, research, and substantial technical assistance that the Backup Center provides for free or at affordable rates to local public defense programs constitutes substantial and meaningful mandate relief.
- These services provided by NYSDA improve the quality of representation that public defense clients receive.
- As local budget constraints erode resources of already-challenged public defense programs, and a lawsuit continues against the State and five counties for deficiencies in public defense services, we need this invaluable consistent resource to be adequately funded.