



LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM
Director

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

CLARENCE A. LEE, JR.
Associate Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

July 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: CHIEF JUDGES, UNITED STATES COURTS OF APPEALS
CHIEF JUDGES, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS
FEDERAL PUBLIC/COMMUNITY DEFENDERS
MEMBERS, DEFENDER SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Separate Office of Defender Services

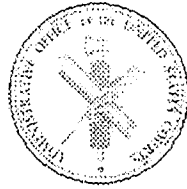
I am pleased to announce the establishment of a separate Office of Defender Services. Theodore J. Lidz, who has served admirably since 1982 as the devoted chief of the Defender Services Division, will be the Assistant Director for Defender Services.

This reorganization reflects the importance of the defender services program, which has enjoyed exemplary leadership under the Assistant Director for Court Administration and Defender Services, Noel J. Augustyn, and Ted Lidz. Establishing a distinct high-level office for the defender services program recognizes the unique nature of this program and the importance of its mission. The defender services program ensures that the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, the Criminal Justice Act (18 U.S.C. 3006A), and other congressional mandates, is enforced on behalf of those who cannot afford to retain counsel and other necessary defense services. By fulfilling its mission, the defender services program helps to maintain public confidence in the nation's commitment to equal justice under law, and ensure the successful operation of the constitutionally-based adversary system of justice by which both federal criminal laws and federally guaranteed rights are enforced.

The special nature of the defender services program within the judiciary is already reflected in the budget process, where the program is funded in the judiciary's appropriation as a separate account. This reorganization will be cost neutral. With a funding level that has more than doubled in the past decade, its budget is approaching \$700 million per year. The appropriation supports federal defender organizations, payments and training for Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys, space, technology, and other program management activities. With oversight by the Judicial Conference Committee on Defender Services and the Judicial Conference, the Administrative Office's statutory and program administration responsibilities will be carried out by the Assistant Director for Defender Services and his staff. I look forward to working more closely with Ted Lidz in his new position, and I thank Noel Augustyn for his leadership and hard work in the Defender area over the past dozen years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonidas Ralph Mecham".

Leonidas Ralph Mecham



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July 1, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO AO SENIOR STAFF

SUBJECT: Establishment of a Separate Office of Defender Services

Effective immediately, I am establishing an Office of Defender Services. Ted Lidz, who has served admirably since 1982 as the devoted chief of the Defender Services Division, will be the Assistant Director for Defender Services. Mr. Lidz's experience and insights will make him a welcome addition to the Executive Management Group.

This reorganization reflects the importance of the defender services program, which has enjoyed exemplary leadership under Assistant Director Noel Augustyn and Ted Lidz. With this change, each of the judiciary's major constituent groups: judges, clerks and other administrative unit heads (including librarians, staff attorneys and preargument attorneys), probation and pretrial services chiefs, and now federal defenders, will have a senior spokesperson as a member of the Executive Management Group.

Establishing a distinct office for the defender services program recognizes the unique nature of this program and the importance of its mission. The defender services program ensures that the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, the Criminal Justice Act (18 U.S.C. 3006A), and other congressional mandates, is enforced on behalf of those who cannot afford to retain counsel and other necessary defense services. By fulfilling its mission, the defender services program helps to maintain public confidence in the nation's commitment to equal justice under law, and ensure the successful operation of the constitutionally-based adversary system of justice by which both federal criminal laws and federally guaranteed rights are enforced.

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The Office of Court Administration and Defender Services is renamed the Office of Court Administration. Mr. Augustyn will be able to devote his full attention to court administration and the support of court executives. He will continue to play a leadership role in strategic planning for court administration policies, practices, resources, and structures. His portfolio remains very broad and includes supporting the Court Administration and Case Management Committee, and supervising the Appellate and Circuit Administration Division, the District Court Administration Division, the Bankruptcy Court Administration Division, the Electronic Public Access program, the Technology Division, and the Court Administration Policy staff. Mr. Augustyn is overseeing the implementation of the new case management and electronic case files systems for the courts, and he is coordinating a groundbreaking assessment of alternative approaches for providing administrative services in the courts.

Any organizational or assignment changes resulting from this reorganization of defender services will be effected over the coming weeks, following normal procedures.



Leonidas Ralph Mecham