

COMMITTEE ON DEFENDER SERVICES

To oversee the provision of legal representation to defendants in criminal cases who cannot afford an adequate defense.

Provide general policy guidance in interpretation and application of the Criminal Justice Act and related statutes, including approving non-controversial revisions to the Guidelines for the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act and Related Statutes, recommending approval to the Judicial Conference for other amendments to these guidelines, and reviewing and modifying forms used by the courts in administering the Act and related statutes.

Review and make recommendations to the Committee on Judicial Resources on policy concerning compensation and staffing for federal public and community defender organizations.

Review budget and grant requests (including staffing) of federal public and community defender organizations, and approve appropriate amounts, subject to applicable Conference-approved formulae, policies, or standards.

Review the Administrative Office's fiscal reports concerning appointments and payments under the Criminal Justice Act.

Monitor, analyze, and propose for Judicial Conference consideration legislation affecting the appointment and compensation of counsel and, where appropriate, make recommendations to other Judicial Conference committees and to the Judicial Conference regarding issues which impact upon the defender services program.

Ensure, to the extent possible, adequate and appropriate substantive training of all persons providing representational services under the Criminal Justice Act.

Monitor the expenditure of Criminal Justice Act funds, advise the Judicial Conference (or other Conference committees, as appropriate) of developments in the defender services program which require additional resources, and, when the budget is being formulated, propose adequate funding and resources to support the defender services program taking into account the overall fiscal situation of the judiciary.