

2017 Champion of State Criminal Justice Reform Award Recipient



Anthony J. Benedetti is the Chief Counsel for the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS), the Massachusetts agency responsible for providing legal services to the indigent. CPCS provides legal representation to 285,000 indigent clients annually in criminal, delinquency, children/family law, and mental health cases through 750 staff, including 425 staff lawyers and 2,800 assigned private lawyers. Since being selected as the head of the agency, he has overseen rapid growth in the size of the agency in response to a legislatively mandated adjustment in how the delivery of services to clients is provided.

From 1998 to 2010, he was the CPCS General Counsel, representing the agency before the executive, legislative, and judicial branches on budget and legislative issues. Prior to this, he spent five years as a public defender trial lawyer in the CPCS Brockton office where he represented hundreds of clients in the District and Superior Courts. He began his career at CPCS as an Audit Specialist in their Audit & Oversight Unit while pursuing his law degree.

He is a member of the National Association for Public Defense, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and the American Council of Chief Defenders. He is a long time member of the Massachusetts Bar Association House of Delegates and the Executive Management Board and a member of the Boston Bar Association. He is a former member of the Massachusetts Criminal Systems History Board and the former Chair of the Massachusetts Firearm Law Review Board. He was also a recipient of an award given to those who seek constitutional rights for the disenfranchised by the Suffolk Lawyers for Justice in October 2005.

Anthony has been a member of NACDL's State Criminal Justice Network since its inception.