

## 18-B PUBLIC DEFENSE PAYMENTS - 1172

The Public Defender and Alternate Public Defenders are the primary source of legal representation for the indigent in Albany County. However, there are instances when the two offices are unable to represent an individual because of legal conflicts of interest.

In those instances of conflict, Article 18-B, section 722-b of New York State County Law provides for payment of assigned private counsel for those individuals charged with a crime or appealing a criminal conviction that are financially unable to obtain their own legal representation. In addition, private counsel is also assigned in certain Family Court and Surrogate Court proceedings as ordered by the judge of that court.

Judges make the decisions to assign private counsel.

This account is administered jointly by the Departments of Law and Management and Budget. Within the Department of Management & Budget is a position to help manage these costs. The position is fully funded through grants.