

A computerized database program has been developed to search NYSDA's criminal case summaries. This new research tool, the Case Digest System, can search and retrieve digests of significant New York appellate decisions that appear in the *Public Defense Backup Center REPORT*.

Training Programs

Through its Defender Institute, NYSDA presents regional training programs, distributes training materials and maintains an extensive videotape lending library.

The Basic Trial Skills

Program is an intensive, nationally-recognized trial advocacy program held each summer in Troy, NY. NYSDA

also holds a number of statewide criminal defense practice training programs, as well as regional programs.



Legislative Monitoring and Analysis

The Association monitors and comments upon legislation and regulations which impact on public defense representation.

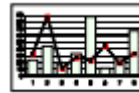
In responding to requests from executive, legislative and judicial branches, the Backup Center supplies data and legislative analysis on the

public defense system. The Association is also called upon to testify before legislative and state advisory panels concerning the quality of public defense representation.



Technical Assistance

The Backup Center's Social Science Research Unit is unique in its ability to provide public defense attorneys with social science statistical research and analysis for use at trial and in appellate representation. The unit also provides technical assistance to state and local governments, issues opinion letters, and prepares studies concerning public defense systems.



Clearinghouse of Criminal Defense Information

The Association reviews, analyzes and indexes hundreds of criminal defense periodicals, newsletters from other state and national defender organizations and other relevant publications it receives on a regular basis. These materials are made available to defense lawyers upon request.



For information on becoming a member of the New York State Defenders Association, please call or fax our office.

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New York State Defenders Association



Public Defense Backup Center

New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA)

NYSDA is a not-for-profit, membership organization serving New York's criminal defense community since 1967. Its objectives are to improve the quality of public defense services in New York State, establish standards for practice in the representation of poor people, and engage in a statewide program of community legal education.

Membership in NYSDA

NYSDA is the largest criminal defense bar association in New York State and among the first state defense organizations to be established in the country. Membership in the Association is open to all those interested in improving criminal defense representation. Members receive NYSDA's monthly newsletter, the *Public Defense Backup Center REPORT*, and *The Defender* magazine which is published periodically. Members can also contact NYSDA for briefs, training materials, attorney and forensic expert referrals, research and consultation services.



Public Defense Backup Center

Since 1981, under contract with the State of New York, NYSDA has operated the Public Defense Backup Center in Albany. The Backup Center is a legal support center providing public defense lawyers statewide with legal research and consultation, publications and training.

The Backup Center works to strengthen the public defense system and to improve the quality of defense representation. The legal support services provided by the Backup Center to appointed counsel also reduce their research costs, particularly when the defense attorneys are inexperienced or isolated from colleagues and law library facilities.

Under its contract with the State, NYSDA is called upon to "review, assess, and analyze the public defense system" and to make specific recommendations to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. In this capacity, NYSDA provides technical assistance to state and local governments to improve the delivery of public defense services while reducing costs.

Services of NYSDA's Public Defense Backup Center

NYSDA offers a number of services to public defenders, legal aid society lawyers and the over 5,000 attorneys accepting low-paying assigned criminal cases under County Law Article 18-B.

Direct Defender Services

Each year the Backup Center provides research and consultation in 800 to 1,200 individual public defense cases. Staff attorneys draw from the office's Criminal Justice Library, Central Files, Brief Bank, and computer-aided research tools to respond to daily requests for assistance. General research memoranda, training materials and information packets are prepared and made available on request.



Backup Center staff generally will not read transcripts, shepardize case citations or perform original research in a particular case. NYSDA and the Backup Center do not provide direct legal representation or research to individual clients or members. Nor do they provide assistance in privately retained cases.

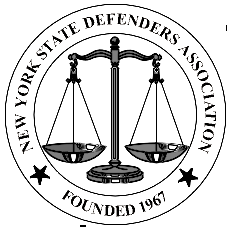
NYSDA files amicus briefs in cases raising major criminal law or public defense issues. Staff attorneys also assist defense lawyers in securing expert and auxiliary services by use of an Expert Witness Bank maintained at the Center. NYSDA, through its Direct Defender Services program, is also called upon to facilitate the assignment of counsel to unrepresented defendants.

NYSDA's Social Science Research Unit provides public defense attorneys with assistance in obtaining and analyzing data or social science research relevant to criminal cases, particularly at the sentencing and appellate stages of representation.

Publications

The *Public Defense Backup Center REPORT*, NYSDA's training newsletter, is published ten times a year. It contains case digests of recent, significant appellate decisions, legislative highlights, practice notes, a training events calendar, and news of interest to criminal defense lawyers. Periodically, when resources and time permit, NYSDA publishes *The Defender* magazine which contains timely and topical articles on criminal defense representation.





Application for Membership

NAME _____
FIRM or OFFICE _____
OFFICE ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____
E-MAIL (Office) _____

At which address do you want to receive membership mail: Office Home

HOME ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL (Home) _____

Please indicate if you are:

- Assigned Counsel Public Defender Legal Aid Attorney
 Private Attorney Student Concerned Layperson

Attorneys and Law School Students please fill out:

Law School _____ Year of Graduation _____ Degree _____
Date Admitted to Practice _____ State(s) _____

Please indicate your willingness to help us with:

- Legislative Analysis Amicus Work Publications
 Seminars Speakers Bureau Training Materials

I am committed to the zealous representation of persons accused of crime and want to work toward an effective and well-financed system of public defense representation for the poor.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Annual Membership Dues:

Attorney.....	\$ 75.00
Non-Attorney.....	\$ 40.00
Student – Law/Other.....	\$ 15.00
Prisoner.....	\$ 15.00

Please Mail To: **New York State Defenders Association**
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