

# Forensic Practice Work Group

The mission of the ILS Forensic Practice Work Group encompasses the following goals: (1) providing recommendations to the Director of ILS for improving forensic practices throughout New York State; (2) effectuating a primary purpose of the NACDL-Cardozo Law National Forensic College - to utilize attorneys with forensic expertise to assist public defense programs within New York State that do not currently possess developed forensic practice units with aggressively litigating forensic science issues; (3) creating a statewide resource that can elevate and coordinate forensic practices throughout the state; and (4) preventing wrongful convictions based upon poor forensic practices.

The Group's efforts will include: (1) developing a system that applies ILS statewide implementation funding to provide direct case consultation to attorneys handling cases with forensic issues; (2) providing consultation to public defense programs that are utilizing ILS funding to develop forensic practice units; (3) creating a statewide forensic resource website; (4) compiling lists of potential expert witnesses across a broad spectrum of forensic disciplines; (5) identifying statewide forensic practice training needs; (6) developing an appellate survey to identify issues encountered, preservation problems, and suggestions for improving practice; (7) developing and implementing training programs; and (8) drafting Best Practices for handling cases that involve forensic issues.

The Forensic Practice Work Group is comprised of a broad cross-section of attorneys from programs that have a dedicated forensic practice unit and that provide training for attorneys around New York State:

**Matthew Alpern**, Director of Quality Enhancement for Criminal Defense Trials, NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services

**Jami Blair**, Quality Enhancement Attorney, Hurrell-Haring Settlement Team, NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services

**Natalie Brocklebank**, Staff Attorney, New York State Defenders Association

**Christine Cook**, Hiscock Legal Aid Society

**Ingrid Effman**, Staff Attorney, Rensselaer County Public Defender Office

**Cynthia Feathers**, Director of Quality Enhancement for Appellate and Post-Conviction, NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services

**Lynda Koenig**, Westchester Legal Aid Society

**Alicia Lilley**, Deputy Forensic Practice Unit, Erie County Assigned Counsel Program

**Brad Maurer**, New York County Defenders

**Marika Meis**, Center for Appellate Litigation

**Jill Paperno**, First Assistant Public Defender, Monroe County Public Defender Office

**Emily Prokesch**, Forensic Practice Director, Bronx Defenders

**Terry Rosenblatt**, Supervising Attorney, DNA Unit, Legal Aid Society of New York City

**Todd Smith**, Forensic Resource Coordinator, Onondaga County Assigned Counsel Program

**Jonathan Stroble**, First Assistant Public Defender, Oneida County Public Defender Office

**Evan Sugar**, Discovery Bureau Chief, Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County

**Elizabeth Vasquez**, Special Forensic Science Counsel, Criminal Defense Practice, Brooklyn Defender Service

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