

The Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

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RESOLUTION

October 3, 2019

A Resolution to Support Increased Reimbursement Rates for Appointed Counsel

Whereas, the right to counsel for indigent persons is a cornerstone of individual liberty, provided for in both the Ohio and U.S. constitutions, and

Whereas, the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly have made a major and unprecedented commitment to guaranteeing this right by allocating more than \$59 million in additional dollars in the state biennial budget to reimburse Ohio counties for the cost of indigent defense for Fiscal Year 2020 and an additional \$59 million for Fiscal Year 2021, and

Whereas, County governments will finally have access to the necessary state resources to make long overdue improvements that will ensure strong, constitutionally sound indigent defense systems in every county, requiring therefore, a significant boost in reimbursement rates so that quality defense counsel is available to all defendants, and

Whereas, A failure to pay reasonable rates deters qualified attorneys from being able to take appointed cases, undermining the right to counsel and having a disastrous impact both on individual cases and for downstream social services costs that are ultimately borne by county taxpayers, and

Whereas, The availability and advocacy of quality defense counsel will result in better efficiencies for courts, better outcomes for all parties and a fair justice system; now, therefore be it

Resolved that the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers encourages all counties of the State of Ohio to adopt, at minimum, the state fee schedule of \$75.00 per hour for both in-court and out-of-court services and caps as recommended by the Office of the State Public Defender as of January, 2019.