

**DCACDL**  
*DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS*

**Vice President**

Nina Masonson  
202-518-5666  
202-518-2923 (fax)

**Secretary**

June Perrone  
202-333-1514 (tel & fax)

**Treasurer**

Andrew J.J. Delehanty  
202-244-5551 (tel & fax)

2500 Que Street, N.W  
No. 725  
Washington, D.C., 20007

**President**

Richard K. Gilbert  
202-898-0857  
202-682-1245 (fax)  
rkgesq@juno.com

**Immediate Past President**

Allen H. Orenberg

**Board Of Directors**

Cary Clennon  
Pat Cresta-Savage  
Donald Dworsky  
Clark U. Fleckinger  
Elizabeth Kent

July 22, 2002

Honorable Rufus G. King, III  
Chief Judge, Superior Court  
of the District of Columbia  
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20001

Ref: Completion Of Revisions To Plan For Furnishing Representation To Indigents Under The  
District Of Columbia Criminal Justice Act

Dear Chief Judge King,

I am writing you in my capacity as president of the District of Columbia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (DCACDL) to congratulate you and the Court on the successful promulgation of a comprehensive revision to the Plan for Furnishing Representation to Indigents Under the District of Columbia Criminal Justice Act (the CJA Plan). This new CJA Plan has many significant, substantive innovations that will both simplify the work of your judges and dramatically improve the conditions of practice for the many lawyers accepting appointments under the Criminal Justice Act. Although there are some additional administrative measures which must be completed, we urge you to strive for an October 1, 2002 implementation date.

As an organization, DCACDL has been gratified by many aspects of the revision process. We appreciated your publishing the initial draft revision for comment and then, upon our request, enlarging the time for comment. Consistently with your commitment to incorporate the views of the affected attorneys, you selected several attorneys to serve on the working committee, chaired by Judge Geoffrey Alprin. On behalf of DCACDL, I and our vice-president, Nina Masonson, were honored to be given the chance to participate.

As the committee went about its work, the spirit of cooperation between the judicial members and the attorney members was exemplary. While compromise was often required, there were many, many areas in which there was a consensus on how to improve the process, some of them quite far-reaching. While each judicial member of the committee made contributions, we would like to single out two in particular. Judge Alprin, as chair of the committee, managed to represent the interests of the Court, yet tactfully mediate disputes, all the while keeping the work of the committee going forward so as to produce a tangible result. The Court is fortunate to have Judge Alprin's leadership and management skills. We also want to give credit to Judge Robert Morin for chairing the subcommittee which tackled the single most controversial aspect of the revision, the establishment of a "guideline fee" structure for the less serious offenses. Arriving at a schedule of fees which both the Court and the attorneys felt was fair and reasonable, was a crucial first step in the process, a goal which we believe Judge Morin achieved.

We know that when you assumed the responsibilities of Chief Judge, the problems of the Court were many. One of those problems was the fact that relationship between the Court and the CJA bar was at its nadir. One of your promises was to involve those attorneys in the decision-making process concerning issues which directly affected them. The revisions to the CJA Plan is a splendid example of delivering on that promise. We are confident that it will prove a success, as well as a blueprint for bench-bar cooperation. DCACDL remains willing and ready to assist the Court in future such endeavors.

Respectfully

Richard K. Gilbert

cc: Honorable Geoffrey M. Alprin  
Honorable Robert E. Morin

DCACDL Board