



JEFFERSON B. FORDHAM
STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT LAW
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ACCOMPLISHMENT
AWARD

Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy Alternative Sentencing Worker Program

The Department of Public Advocacy is Kentucky's statewide public defender program with 545 employees. In FY 2016, DPA represented 158,514 persons in 120 counties, with 157,853 trial appointments. The Department seeks to address clients' needs as members of society. It passionately advocates for alternatives to costly incarceration, provides access to services that help to make clients more productive members of their communities, saving costs, reducing recidivism, and making communities safer.

Under the direction of a public defender, the Kentucky Public Advocacy Alternative Sentencing Workers (ASW) Program works with clients and develops defense-generated, community-based alternative sentencing plans that assure judges and prosecutors that public safety is accounted for and actual rehabilitation is in place. The program has sustained support from criminal justice leaders.

Defenders and ASWs identify clients with substance use and mental health disorders. ASWs use motivational interviewing, an evidence-based approach that allows ASWs to increase a client's engagement in, and compliance with, treatment, to engage clients' awareness of their substance use or mental illness and willingness to seek treatment. This has been proven to improve treatment outcomes.

In FY 2016, 2,215 plans were presented to courts and 1,400 were granted, offsetting \$11 million in correctional costs. Judges, prosecutors, jailers, and drug treatment professionals all value the program. Independent evaluation of the program demonstrates its high value. The program provides \$5.66 of return on investment for every \$1 spent on the program, according to an independent evaluation by the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research, using data collected by ASW Program staff.

20th ANNUAL JEFFERSON FORDHAM SOCIETY LUNCHEON



**Friday, August 11, 2017
12:00 p.m.
Mastro's Steakhouse
1285 6th Ave.
New York, NY**