

Queens Daily Eagle: Assigned Counsel Suits Continue As Wages Remain Stagnant

In “Assigned Counsel Suits Continue As Wages Remain Stagnant” (Queens Daily Eagle December 21, 2022), the lawsuit filed by Kristie Blase on behalf of the New York Civil Liberties Union against Governor Kathy Hochul and New York State, alleging that the state was failing to meet its public defense obligations mandated by a settlement reached nearly a decade ago in a similar case, is discussed.

Kristie notes, “Equal criminal justice for poor people is a constitutional right that the Hurrell-Harring Settlement Order guaranteed 8 years ago,” she continues, “The State has failed to meet its obligations by not properly funding assigned counsel programs and attorneys, making our State’s criminal justice system no longer fair or even handed.”

The case is Hurrell-Harring, et al. v. State of New York, et al., Index No. 8866-07, Supreme Court, Albany County.

Felicello was one of the firms that brought the lawsuit.