

MEMORANDUM

TO: PANEL ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE APPELLATE PROJECTS

DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2015

RE: STATEWIDE POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF ASSOCIATE COUNSEL

At its December 2015 meeting, the Appellate Indigent Defense Advisory Oversight Committee (AIDOAC) promulgated a statewide policy regarding the use of associate counsel. The policy is attached.

While there are policy differences among the various appellate districts, AIDOAC has come to recognize that establishing standard policies applicable to all districts can in some instances serve to enhance the efficiency of the appointed counsel program. When possible, AIDOAC seeks to create and enforce statewide policies that allow appointed counsel to practice in multiple jurisdictions without having to constantly learn about the individual rules in each court. The associate counsel policy will now provide a standard set of criteria on a statewide basis.

It is worth noting that the policy does not substantially differ from the individual policies that previously existed in the various districts. Nonetheless, before undertaking the use of associate counsel, appointed counsel is advised to carefully review the policy. As always, you should not hesitate to contact the appellate project with which you are working if you should have any questions regarding the policy.