

JUSTICE *for the* POOR

FIXING BROKEN PUBLIC DEFENSE SYSTEMS IN NY AND BEYOND

A PANEL DISCUSSION MODERATED BY **Professor Adele Bernhard**

Thursday, May 29 6:30-8:30

Great Hall, New York City Bar Association
42 West 44th Street New York, NY 10036

To register for this event, please visit this link: <http://bit.ly/1j1pnbb>

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HOSTED BY

New York City Bar Association's Committees on Criminal Courts and Criminal Justice Operations

More than 50 years has passed since *Gideon v. Wainwright* established the bedrock principle that people facing serious charges in criminal cases are guaranteed the right to counsel free of charge if they cannot afford an attorney. However, states and counties continue to struggle to provide effective counsel to defendants who lack financial resources to hire counsel for their defense. New York has consistently ranked among the minority of states—including Georgia and Louisiana—where state government provides the least financial support for indigent defense, and has been the target of a class action lawsuit challenging its public defense system on constitutional grounds. This panel will discuss the obstacles that exist to fulfilling the ideal of the right to counsel for eligible defendants and what steps can be taken now to fundamentally reform the system to provide justice for the poor.

PANELISTS:

Stephen B. Bright, Director, Southern Center for Human Rights

Tina Luongo, Deputy Attorney-in-Charge of the Criminal Practice of The Legal Aid Society

Corey Stoughton, Senior Staff Attorney and Upstate Litigation Coordinator at the New York Civil Liberties Union

Steve Zeidman, CUNY Professor & Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic; member of the Appellate Division's Indigent Defense Organization Oversight Committee

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.