

Department Name	Albany County Assigned Counsel Program
Account(s)	1172

Department Function
<p>The Assigned Counsel Program is one (1) of the three (3) indigent defense programs in Albany County, and it oversees the attorneys who are assigned to represent individuals when the Public Defender’s Office and Alternate Public Defender’s Office have conflicts of interest. We provide training, resources, and support to assist our three panels of one hundred and seventy-five (175) attorneys in providing zealous, client-centered representation to their indigent clients. These independent attorneys provide court mandated representation in both the Criminal and Family Courts throughout the County. We are funded by and work closely with the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services. ILS provides standards and goals by which the performance of our panel attorneys are measured. Training and legal support in the form of experts, investigators, and other services are provided to further improve the quality of the representation their clients face.</p>

Current Year Highlights
<p>In 2025, the Albany County Legislature passed Local Law Creating Chapter 114 of the Albany County Code. This law formally organized the Assigned Counsel Program and established a Board of Directors to oversee the Department. In addition to providing the organizational framework for the Assigned Counsel Program, the law also provides the Department with the authority to assign attorneys to individuals who cannot afford counsel in the Criminal and Family Courts throughout the County, a role historically exercised by the Courts.</p> <p>During this calendar year, the Department also received funding from New York State’s Office for Indigent Legal Services to hire an in-house Investigator and an IT Discovery Technician. The Department intends to fill those positions in 2026. By filling these positions, the attorneys assigned to represent indigent individuals in Albany County will be better equipped to represent their clients, and it is anticipated that these additions will fiscally benefit the County.</p>

Next Year Projects
<p>The Assigned Counsel Program intends to continue taking fiscally neutral steps to improve the quality of the representation received by indigent individuals in Albany County in 2026. In addition to hiring an in-house Investigator and an IT Discovery Technician, the Assigned Counsel Program is seeking to add a Family Court Supervising Attorney to assign attorneys to those unable to afford counsel in Family Court and to provide mentoring to the attorneys that are assigned.</p>

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/ACP
-----------------	--

Albany County Assigned Council Program Court Panel Attorney Distribution Statistics for 2022-2024

