



CCAA

Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys

 www.in.gov/ccaa



information@ccaa.in.gov

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Mark Rutherford
Chair
Derrick M. Johnson
Executive Director

October 2025 Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1

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Reminder: Required Annual Training is TOMORROW (Oct 16)



Our annual training is set for 9 a.m. Oct 16, virtually over Microsoft Teams.

As always, we ask that every county have at least one person attend. Counties participating in the Misdemeanor Pilot Program are **required** to have at least one person (preferably the report preparer) in attendance.

This training is for all counties receiving CCAA reimbursement (including the State's 40% non-capital reimbursement and/or the Federal Title IV-E). If you have specific questions you'd like addressed, please send them to us at information@ccaa.in.gov.

Virtual registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Please feel free to forward this invitation to anyone in your county who may benefit from attending!

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM

Training schedule:

9:00 - 9:15 Welcome

9:15 - 9:45 Supplemental Fee and Supplemental Fund

9:45 - 10:00 Local PD board meeting requirements

10:00 - 11:00 Forms

11:00 - 11:30 Multi-County Compliance, Attorney Availability tool, Assigned Counsel lists, Leveraging adequate staff designations

11:30 - 11:45 pay parity

Questions about the training may be directed to [Jennifer Pinkston](#).

Justice Reinvestment Advisory Commission (JRAC) Releases Report on Indigency Determination Statewide

The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC) has released a report entitled "Report on Indigency Determinations in Criminal Cases". Click [HERE](#) to the report.

- The report was produced based on language inserted into legislation by Senate Corrections and Criminal Law Chair, Sen. Aaron Freeman.
- The CCAA supported the study to better understand the methods courts are using to make indigency determinations.

The key findings were:

- 65% of judicial officers reported using their own personal policies to make indigency determinations, while only 8% operated under a uniform, court policy.
- Indigency determinations are almost universally handled by judicial officers themselves, with 98.5% of respondents indicating they make the final determination. The others are decided by other bodies, such as Public Defender Offices.
- The report highlights that 7 out of 8 judicial officers do not verify a defendant's claim that they are unable to secure private counsel.
 - Furthermore, only a small minority of courts possess a method for identifying the cost of private counsel.

Primary Recommendations:

- *Standardized Forms and Mandatory Training:* The report's central proposal is the creation of a statewide, standardized, and fillable indigency form. The form will include a provision for an oath. The recommendation is coupled with a call for new training and materials for judicial officers to ensure consistent application.
- *Integration with Technology:* To improve efficiency and data collection, the report recommends exploring the integration of the new indigency form in state's Odyssey Case Management System. This integration would not only facilitate the sharing of determinations between courts but also enable statistical reporting and analysis of trends over time.
- *Enhanced Information on Attorney Costs:* To address the critical information gap, the report recommends that local bar associations create directories of criminal defense attorneys and, more importantly, publish reports detailing the typical range of private attorney costs for various case types.
- *Data-Driven Long-Term Strategy:* A forward-looking recommendation is to use the data and outcomes from the CCAA's ongoing four-year misdemeanor pilot program to inform future, substantive changes to the indigency determination process. This approach signals a commitment to evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

Questions about this report may be directed to [Andrew Cullen](#)

CCAA Establishes Open Office Hours for Chiefs/Chief Deputies

The CCAA values open communication with county public defense leaders. To further that objective, we have decided to introduce quarterly open-door sessions!

We envision this to be a time that you, or others in your office, can ask all types of questions – like any open-door arrangement. Questions can be as specific or broad-based as you like. You can join and leave as you are available. Our goal is to have a generalized topic for most of the sessions so you can be prepared with any questions or thoughts you may have, but please share whatever is on your mind!

This initiative aims to foster a deeper sense of community among us. We are committed to strengthening public defense, and by working together, we can create a more connected and communicative partnership. The next meeting will be scheduled soon.

If you have ideas about how to make this time most effective, please reach out to [Derrick Mason](#).



Annual Report Released

The CCAA has released its Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Report. It contains information about the expenditures and activities over the fiscal year and includes results from the "Youth at Risk" Pilot Program.

Click here for the Annual Report

Remember: The Contact Page Matters

As a reminder, funded counties are required to complete the "Contact" page on the reimbursement request form accurately each quarter. It is important that CCAA has accurate records for:

1. The next meeting date of your board, and
2. The members names, contact information, and term expirations.

We have made some adjustments to some counties' forms to make this reporting more convenient. Beginning next quarter, CCAA staff will be auditing this much like we audit the remainder of the request form, so please take the extra time to track down any information that is missing or inaccurate on that page.

Questions about keeping your Contact Page updated should be directed to [Tristan Snell](#) or [Emily Hughey](#).

Welcome: 3 New CCAA Members

The CCAA welcomed 3 new members at the recent October meeting.

Representing the House of Representatives, **State Rep. Maureen Bauer** joins the CCAA. She has been active in criminal justice policy by serving on the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee and joint House/Senate Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code. She is a resident of St. Joseph County and her full bio may be found [HERE](#).

State Sen. Rodney Pol has been appointed by the Senate. He has previously served as an attorney with the State Public Defender Office and serves on the Senate's criminal justice committees as well as the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Commission. Sen. Pol represents portions of Porter and LaPorte Counties. Click [HERE](#) to read his full bio.

The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute has appointed **Attorney Paje Felts** to a 3-year term on the CCAA. A resident of Indiana, Ms. Felts has served as Legislative Counsel to the Indiana State Bar Association since 1993, representing the interests of the State Bar before the General Assembly. Prior to join the State Bar, she served in staff roles at the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Office of the Secretary of State. Read her bio [HERE](#).



Local Public Defender Board Appointments

The CCAA welcomes the following new and/or re-appointed members to local Public Defender Boards. Their 3-year terms were approved at the recent C meeting.
Carroll County

- Carroll, Ed Selvidge
- Cass, Michael Boonstra
- Clark, Anne Pfau
- Floyd, Matthew Schad
- Grant, Joe Keith Lewis
- Jasper, Tim Belstra
- Jay, James Zimmerman
- Marshall, Brandon Schadek

At the next meeting, the CCAA will consider appointments or re-appointments to the following local boards:

- DeKalb
- Elkhart
- Howard
- Jackson
- Madison
- Miami
- Perry
- Pike
- Scott
- Shelby
- Steuben
- Wabash

Click [HERE](#) for more information regarding local boards

Questions about matters regarding local board appointments may be directed to [Andrew Cullen](#) or [Linda Hunter](#)

October 2025 Draft CCAA Meeting Minutes

Click [HERE](#) to read the draft minutes

Remaining 2025 Reimbursement Request Due Dates and Commission Meeting Dates

Reimbursement Requests Due Date

November 14

Commission Meeting Date

December 17

Commission meetings begin at 2 p.m. Eastern and comply with the Indiana Open Door Law (IC § 5-14-1.5). Meetings are held at the Commission Office (101 W. Ohio Street, Suite 1800, Indianapolis, IN, 46204) unless otherwise stated on the meeting notice and agenda. The public is invited to attend in person or via electronic means permitted under IC § 5-14-1.5-3.6 excluding any Executive Sessions that may be scheduled as permitted under IC § 5-14-1.5-6.1. To view the Commission's Electronic Meeting Policy, click [HERE](#).

Notice of Executive Sessions & meetings will be posted at the entrance to the Commission Office (101 W. Ohio St., Suite 1800, Indianapolis, IN, 46204) and will be posted on [the front page of the Commission's website](#) under "News & Announcements" at least 48 hours in advance. Meeting materials and agendas will be posted at least 24 hours in advance.

If you have any questions about the Commission meetings, contact [Derrick Mason](#)



Check out our website for the latest news, forms, contacts, and information on CCAA
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