

From: Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys <ccaa@subscriptions.in.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Cullen, Andrew S
Subject: January 2025 Quarterly Newsletter: TEST

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)



CCAA
Commission on Court
Appointed Attorneys

January 2025 Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 1



Follow us on
[Twitter](#)

[Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

In this Issue:

- [Welcome 2025: New Year, New Governor, New Commission Member, New Revenue Forecast, New Legislative Session](#)
- [Commission OKs New LWOP & Death Penalty Rule Recommendations to Supreme Court](#)
- [Commission in the News](#)
- [Local Public Defender Board Appointments](#)
- [December Commission Meeting Draft Minutes](#)
- [2025 Reimbursement Request Due Dates and Commission Meeting Dates](#)



Welcome 2025: New Year, New Governor, New Commission Member, New Revenue Forecast, New Legislative Session

With 2025 upon us, the CCAA is preparing for a new, long, budget-writing Legislative Session, a new Governor, and we welcome a new appointed member of the Commission.

New Commission Member

The Supreme Court recently appointed Noble County Chief Public Defender Jim Abbs to a seat on the Commission. Abbs is a well-known leader in the public defense community, having served for many years as the President of the Chief Public Defenders' Association. Please join us in welcoming Jim!



We also thank Judge Steven Meyer for his many years of service as a member of the Commission. His wise counsel and dedicated service was invaluable to the Commission. Judge Meyer asked not to be re-appointed. We thank him for his service and wish him well.

New Governor

Governor-elect Mike Braun is currently making appointments for his new administration. He will assume office on January 13. To view a list of the appointments made thus far, click [HERE](#). The Commission welcomes the new

Governor and looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the Executive Branch of Indiana's Government. Mark your calendars for Governor Braun's State of the State Address on January 29 at 7 p.m.

New Legislative Session

The Commission is looking forward to working with the members of the 124th General Assembly when it convenes for its biennial budget-writing session on January 8. The Commission took positions on a handful of bills at the December meeting. To see those details, check out the draft minutes from the December meeting by clicking [HERE](#).

New Revenue Forecast

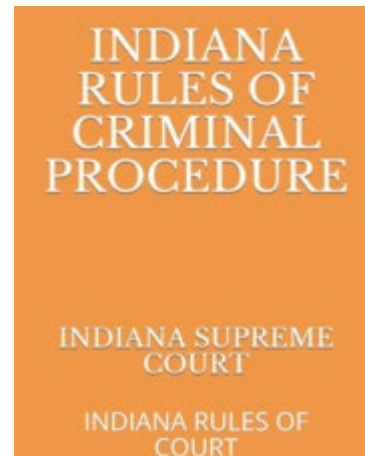
The revenue forecast released on December 17 will have a significant impact on lawmakers as they work with the Governor and Chief Justice to craft the next 2-year state budget. While the shortfall in Medicaid funding seems to have been partially offset by projected new revenue, most are expecting a session with less new funding than in previous sessions. This will not deter the Commission from seeking to maintain the fiscal integrity of the Public Defense Fund.

Questions about these matters may be directed to Derrick Mason or Andrew Cullen.

Commission OKs New LWOP & Death Penalty Rule Recommendations to Supreme Court

The Commission has approved a new set of recommendations regarding the LWOP and Death Penalty [Rules of Criminal Procedure](#) for consideration by the Supreme Court. These recommendations were developed by a working group in conjunction with the Public Defender Council, and they were advertised for public comments prior to adoption by the Commission

The primary LWOP recommended change involves the appointment of two qualified counsel in those cases. Regarding the Death Penalty Rules, the primary recommended changes involve appointment procedures, qualifications, workload, and compensation. To view the full changes that are being recommended, see Appendix 2 in the draft meeting minutes from the December meeting, which may be viewed [HERE](#).



Misdemeanor Pilot Update: It's happening!

The Commission has received initial applications from approximately 1/3 of all participating counties to participate in the misdemeanor pilot program. We are selecting counties that we are interested in possibly participating as a full pilot



county and/or participating in just data collection.

We cannot finalize participants until the Office of Court Services finalizes the indigency form that all courts in each pilot county will be required to use. The form is in the final steps of development.

At the March meeting, staff intends to provide the Commission with the list of applicant counties as of that date for further action. For further information, click **HERE**.

Misdemeanor reimbursement does not begin until July 1, 2025.

Commission in the News



[Prosecutors, defenders ask for pension upgrades to aid recruitment, retention](#)

by Leslie Bonilla Muñiz, *Indiana Capital Chronicle*

[Indiana Lawyer Podcast](#), featuring CCAA's Executive Director, Derrick Mason, discussing the upcoming Misdemeanor Pilot Program

Local Public Defender Board Appointments

The Commission welcomes the following new and/or re-appointed members to local Public Defender Boards. Their 3-year terms were approved at the prior Commission meeting.

- Elaine Sebastian, Decatur County
- Kelly Bryan, Delaware County
- David Shelton, Knox County
- Steven Blane, West Central IN PD Office

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

- Linda?

If you have any questions about this or any matters regarding local public defender

boards, contact [Andrew Cullen](#) or [Linda Hunter](#).

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

December Commission Meeting Draft Minutes

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

2025 Reimbursement Request Due Dates and Commission Meeting Dates

Reimbursement Requests Due Date	Commission Meeting Date
February 14	March 26
May 15	June 18
August 14	September 24
November 14	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](#).

[^ Back to Top](#)

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:

[Manage Preferences](#) | [Delete Profile](#) | [Help](#) | [View as Webpage](#)