

# County View of Indigent Defense Services

- ▶ THE INDIGENT DEFENSE BOARD INCLUDES COUNTY OFFICIALS WITH VAST EXPERIENCE WITH INDIGENT DEFENSE, COUNTY GOVERNMENT, LEGAL SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT FINANCE
- ▶ Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager for Clark county
- ▶ Joni Eastley, former County Commissioner for Nye County
- ▶ Lorinda Wickman, current County Commissioner for Nye County
- ▶ Drew Christensen, Dir of Office for Appointed Counsel, Clark County
- ▶ Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County
- ▶ Robert Telles, Public Administrator, Clark County
- ▶ Dave Mendiola, County Manager, Humboldt County

# County View of Indigent Defense Services

- ▶ EXPECTATION THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE LOOKING OUT FOR THE INTEREST OF COUNTIES AND TO INSURE THE INTENT OF THE LAW AND THE POLICIES WILL, IN FACT, IMPROVE INDIGENT DEFENSE WITHOUT ADDING GREATER FISCAL IMPACTS

# How DIDS works with rural counties

- ▶ ASSIST WITH:
- ▶ County Plan to deliver indigent defense
- ▶ Continuing Education Credits (CLE) for practitioners (both contract attorneys and county employed public defenders)
- ▶ With third-party attorneys (Contract Attorneys) from recruitment to agreements between attorneys and the counties

# How DIDS works with rural counties

- ▶ Work with rural county based public defenders and contract attorneys on weighted caseload studies to insure proper resources are being provided to meet established standards.
- ▶ Assist with capital murder cases where rural PD's or contract attorneys do not have the expertise/experience/time/funding
- ▶ Will conduct weighted caseload study
- ▶ Advisory Committee has been established and I encourage attorneys from every rural county cooperate with the study to insure we get valid numbers that can be used to plan strategy to assist rurals as we move forward.

# How DIDS works with rural counties

- ▶ Provide Legal Server software (at no cost to county) for case management
- ▶ Will help DIDS to better understand the time/resources (specific to each county) necessary to provide optimal indigent defense.
- ▶ This will save counties thousands of dollars up front and on an annual basis
- ▶ Critical piece of this effort is that counties report in a standard format to allow DIDS to understand both common practices and customized approaches
- ▶ Those counties that do not utilize the software will still be required (by law) to report, thus that could be challenging for those counties.