

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

Department Function
The Assigned Counsel Program is one (1) of the three (3) indigent defense programs in Albany County. 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.

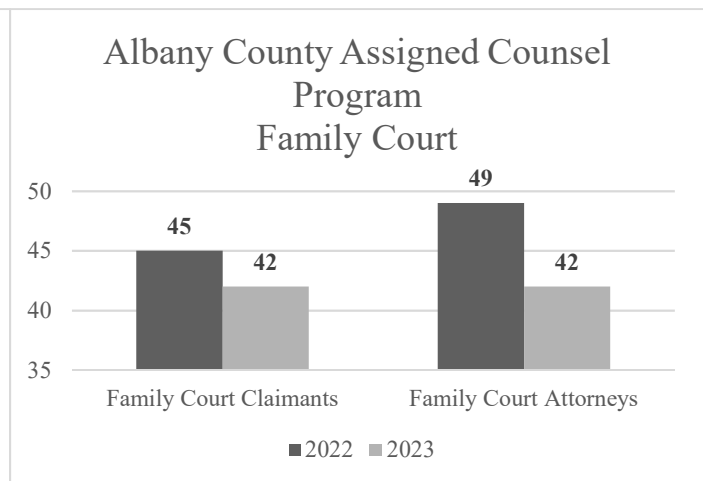
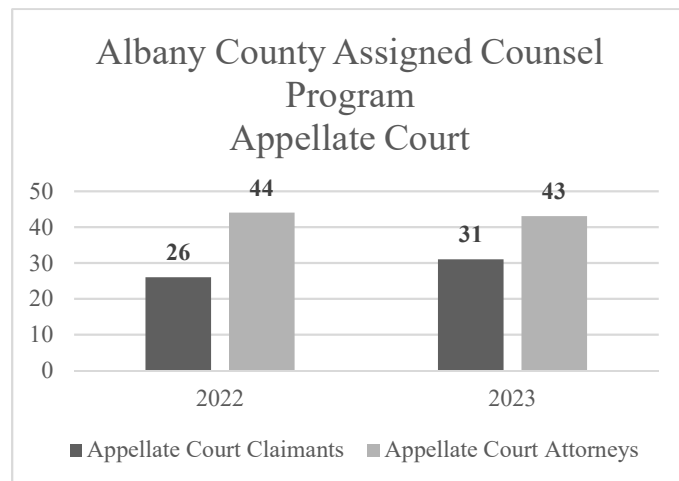
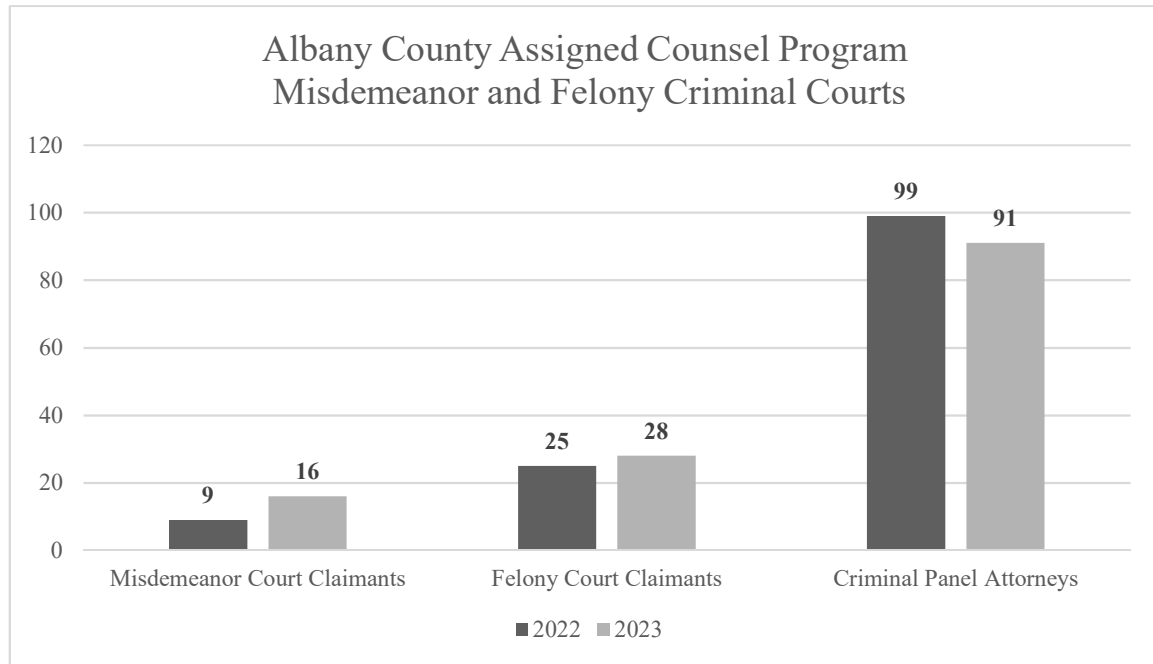
Current Year Highlights
2024 has been an impactful year for the Assigned Counsel Program in accomplishing its mission of connecting its panel attorneys to resources and improving the quality of indigent criminal defense. Among these are: • Selected as a statewide presenter to the ILS Board of Directors reviewing the successes and challenges of implementation of State funding over the past six (6) years. • Expanded our MCLE provision to the Panel through our “Last Tuesdays” series and expanded these services through an expanded partnership with the Albany County Bar Association. • Started the Resource Attorney Program, where experienced attorneys are available as a paid resource to assist less experienced attorneys with their assigned cases.

Next Year Projects
Through 2025, the Assigned Counsel Program shall build upon this year’s successes by: • Continue our expansion of the Capital Group Collaboration to additional assigned counsel programs throughout the Capital Region. • Achieve full implementation of our new assigned counsel plan for assignment of attorneys and rotation of these assignments to ensure that more panel attorneys receive the necessary experience and opportunity to serve and improve their representation through experience. • Expand services available to the panel attorneys such as mitigation assistance by further developing our network of services to the panel.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/ACP
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Programmatic Highlights



Between 2022 and 2023, the Assigned Counsel Program (ACP) represented clients in approximately 800+ cases annually. The primary source of funding for ACP is the grant associated with the Statewide Implementation of Hurrell-Harring, which can only be used for Criminal Court. Nonetheless, a majority of the Assigned Counsel Program's claims for payment are related to Family Court. In 2023 the number of claimants rose in Appellate Court, Felony Court, and Misdemeanor Court. The number of attorneys also rose in Appellate Court.

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