

Robert N. Convissar



Robert N. Convissar serves as the Chief Defender/Administrator of the Assigned Counsel Program of the Erie County Bar Association Aid to Indigent Prisoners Society, Inc. The Assigned Counsel Program has a budget in excess of \$9 million dollars and through the over 350 lawyers on it's panels every year represents over 12,000 indigent criminal defendants and persons with matters in Family Court.

Mr. Convissar has been a practicing lawyer for over 38 years. He has worked in public service in the Erie County District Attorneys Office serving under Hon. Richard J. Arcara, where he rose through the ranks to become the Executive Assistant District Attorney of Erie County. For the past 27 years he has been in private practice, limited to the Criminal Defense of the accused in both State and Federal Courts. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Buffalo Law School where he teaches Trial Technique and also runs the Criminal Law Practicum, which teaches students how to be a criminal defense attorney.

Mr. Convissar graduated from SUNY at Buffalo with a BA in 1973 and a law degree in 1977. He has been President of the Bar Association of Erie County , President of the Erie County Bar Foundation and President of the Bar Association's Assigned Counsel Program. He has served as a member of the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates. He is a member of just about every Criminal Defense Organization that exists, including the Chief Defenders Association of New York.

Mr. Convissar was appointed by Chief Judge Jonathon Lippman in 2010 to the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York and in 2014 to the Task Force on Pro Bono Scholars. In 2011 he received the Criminal Justice Act Award for distinguished criminal defense work on behalf of indigent defendants in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York.