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DARRIN JORDAN
CHAIR

DOROTHY HAIRSTON MITCHELL
VICE CHAIR

To: Public Defense Community
From: Darrin Jordan, Chair, Indigent Defense Services Commission
Date: April 12, 2021
Re: IDS Diversity and Equity Statement and Plan

On behalf of the Indigent Defense Services Commission, I am pleased to announce that on Friday, April 9, the Commission voted to adopt the attached Diversity and Racial Equity Statement and Plan.

The Commission originally adopted a Diversity Statement at its October meeting, and the Commission's Diversity Subcommittee has worked since that time to develop the plan to put our words into action.

Special thanks go to Subcommittee chair Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, members Art Beeler, Cait Fenhagen, Judge Lisa Menefee, and Jan Pritchett, and to IDS Forensic Resource Counsel Sarah Rackley, for their dedication and effort.

I encourage all of you to take a few minutes to watch Professor Mitchell's excellent presentation on why the Commission adopted the statement and plan. It's posted on the front page of the IDS website.

I invite all of you to help IDS attain the goals set forth in the plan. The Commission and IDS staff look forward to working with you to attain diversity and equity in the public defense community and to fight for fair and just results for all of our clients.