

“Indigent Defense in Crisis”
News Conference
State Capitol Steps, Montgomery, AL
May 25, 2005

IMPORTANT POINTS

- ✓ Indigent defense is in crisis in Alabama.
 - ✓ This impacts children and the poor.
 - ✓ The funding for indigent defense has been reduced by 30 % since February 1, 2005
 - ✓ Reduction due to Attorney General’s opinion regarding overhead expenses.
 - ✓ The system is being under funded
 - ✓ We will lose competent and committed lawyers
 - ✓ Approximately 25 % of these monies spent on juvenile dependency & delinquency cases
 - ✓ As quality representation diminishes, we face the danger of the guilty going unpunished, the innocent being convicted and our children being lost and left behind.
 - ✓ Legislation will be introduced in the Special Session to reinstate these payments.
 - ✓ These funds were already approved for this year’s budget –but withheld.
 - ✓ We stand ready to work with the Administrative Office of Courts, the Attorney General’s Office, and the State Bar Association to work on a long-term solution.
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As presented by Jim Roberts, President, ACDLA