



# State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

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## OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Jay L. Wilber, Public Defender

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 27, 2017

### **Public Defender Jay Wilber to Retire** *29 Years of Service to Broome County*

(BINGHAMTON, NY) Broome County Executive Jason Garnar announced today the retirement of Public Defender Jay Wilber and honored Wilber for his 29 years of service to Broome County.

Wilber last day will be March 30, 2018.

Wilber has worked in the Broome County Public Defender's Office for 29 years. Upon graduation from law school at Nova University Center for the Study of Law, Wilber began his law career in private practice.

He joined the Broome County in 1989 as an Assistant Public Defender. Wilber was appointed Acting Broome County Public Defender in 2001 and appointed Public Defender in 2002.

“Broome County has been lucky to have Jay Wilber as Public Defender for the last 16 years, and many more years before that in the Public Defender's office. I wish Jay the best on his retirement and thank him for his dedicated service,” said Jason Garnar, Broome County Executive.

While Public Defender, Wilber worked with numerous administrations to ensure that indigent citizens in Broome County were provided with their constitutional right to counsel and vigorous representation. He was an advocate for his clients in and out of the courts.

Wilber was a longtime member of the Binghamton Adult Treatment Court team.

Also, during his tenure he oversaw and implemented technological advances within the Public Defender's Office increasing productivity and efficiency

Garnar also announced today the appointment of Michael Baker, Chief Assistant Public Defender, as Acting Public Defender.

Per Broome County Charter and Code, the Public Defender is appointed by the County Executive from a list provided by the Merit Selection Committee. The Public Defender is appointed for a term of five years.