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The Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Section has reviewed The Blue Print prepared by the NYSBA Emergency Task Force for Small Firm and Solo Practitioners. Sections Three and Eight of the Blue Print relate directly to the practice of criminal law and access to justice. The Section is especially pleased that the Report continues to stress the importance of an increase in the rates for assigned counsel. This has been a long standing priority of the Association. In addition the recommendation for the continuation of the ability to submit interim vouchers is vitally important to many small firm and solo practitioners. Interim vouchers allow lawyers to be paid without having to wait for a case to be concluded. With the delays caused by the pandemic, assigned counsel need the ability to bill and be paid for work done as the cases progresses rather than having to wait for a final resolution. The Criminal Justice Section also supports the adoption of this Report as it provides guidance with respect to many other issues that are faced by those attorneys who must appear in Court and deal with the new normal. David Louis Cohen, Chair

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