



Coalition Aims to Change Public Defense System

Posted: Feb 19, 2009 08:01 AM EST

A statewide coalition is working to reform Michigan's public defense system. The campaign for justice released a study saying that the state is failing to meet its constitutional responsibility to ensure effective legal representation for those who cannot afford a lawyer. The group says Michigan has the worst public defense system in country due in part to inadequate funding.

Laura Sager, campaign for justice: "The Michigan system is one of the handful in the country that funds its public defense services through the county. Counties are ill-equipped to handle this burden. We need adequate state funding and a system that meets minimum national standards."

For more information on the campaign for justice, you can call 517-372-3050.