

## **Assistant Public Defender Winston Peters**

Born in the Caribbean on the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, and the eldest of four children, Winston A. Peters is an Assistant Public Defender in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. In this position, Mr. Peters has executive management responsibility for Adult Branch and Area Operations and the Clinical Social Worker Unit.

After spending his initial years as a trial lawyer handling felony and misdemeanor cases for the Office, Mr. Peters was tapped for the role of Attorney Training Coordinator for newly hired attorneys to the Office and then Deputy-in-Charge of the Kenyon Juvenile Center branch office.

Mr. Peters spent two years as Deputy-in-Charge before he was promoted to a Grade IV senior deputy in the central felony trials division. As a senior deputy, Mr. Peters tried many cases involving serious and violent felony charges — including homicides — and also handled capital cases. In 1998, Mr. Peters was promoted to Head Deputy with management responsibility for the Special Services Division. Subsequently, he was promoted to Division Chief and then to Bureau Chief. In 2005, he was promoted to his current position of Assistant Public Defender, where he previously has overseen the Juvenile Division among other duties.

While working for the Office, Mr. Peters has been actively involved in community and civic affairs. He is a former Chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Judicial Appointments Committee, a former member of its Board of Trustees, former Vice-Chair of its Criminal Justice Section, and a former member of its Judicial Elections and Evaluation Committee. Currently, he is a Governor's appointee to the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Mr. Peters is a former President of the California Public Defenders Association and former President of the Los Angeles County Black Public Defender's Association. He also served a one-year appointment as Chief Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas.

Mr. Peters has received many awards including the American Bar Association's (ABA) Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Distinguished Service Award, the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Award, the Association of Black County Administrators Achievement Award, and the Pacific Juvenile Defender-of-the-Year Award, and a Los Angeles City Council Resolution for commitment to holistic legal advocacy on behalf of children and families impacted by the juvenile justice system.

Mr. Peters earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.