

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Governor Musgrove Names André de Gruy as Director of the Office of Capital Defense Counsel**

Jackson, MS – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced the hiring of André de Gruy as Director of the Office of Capital Defense Counsel. De Gruy currently serves as Assistant Public Defender in the Hinds County Office of the Public Defender.

“André de Gruy brings the experience, the professionalism and the dedication to this office that we had been looking for,” Musgrove said. “The Office of Capital Defense Counsel is going to require a high level of experience and leadership to serve its clients well, and André met those requirements.”

The Office of Capital Defense Counsel was established as part of the Mississippi Capital Defense Litigation Act by the Mississippi Legislature. When fully staffed, the office will have four attorneys, two investigators and administrative staff. The director is appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serves a four-year term.

The office was created to provide representation for indigent people indicted under offenses in which the death penalty is applicable.

De Gruy has extensive experience in handling death penalty cases. Since receiving his law degree at the Mississippi College School of Law in 1990, he has been involved with death penalty cases. He served as a staff attorney and then Executive Director for the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center before joining the Office of the Public Defender in 1996.

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A published author and lecturer on the death penalty, de Gruy currently serves as Vice-President of the Mississippi Public Defender Association. His bar admissions include the Mississippi Bar; the Supreme Court of the United States; the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; and the United States District Court for the northern and southern districts of Mississippi.

De Gruy and his wife, Beth, have four children.