



André de Gruy is the State Public Defender for Mississippi. He founded the Mississippi Office of Capital Defense Counsel in July 2001, and served as director of that program, now a division of the Office of State Public Defender, until June 1, 2021. He previously worked as an intern, staff attorney and director of the Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center Inc. and as an assistant public defender in Hinds County. He is a 1990 graduate of Mississippi College School of Law. He served on the Mississippi Corrections and Criminal Justice Task Force and now serves on the Corrections and Criminal Justice Oversight Taskforce. He served on the Mississippi Public Defender Association Board of Directors for over 15 years including as President and chair of both the Training and Public Policy Committees. He is also a member of the National Association for Public Defense, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Mississippi Association for Justice. He is a “Life Member” honoree of MPDA. He is also a recipient of the Kenneth J. Rose Award for Compassionate Advocacy from Mississippians Educating for Smart Justice (MESJ); the 2014-15 Stone Pony Award from MAJ; and the 2019 Trail Blazer for Justice Award from the Mississippi Center for Legal Services. André is married to Judge Elizabeth de Gruy, they have five children and four grandchildren. They are parishioners at St. Richard Catholic Church, and André serves on the diocesan Faith in Action Team (FIAT).