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Gary A. Horton, Director of the Veterans Defense Program, has worked at NYSDA since 2013. He directs and manages this NYSDA program, providing training, support, and legal assistance to justice-involved veterans and service members, and the public defense attorneys representing them. Previously, his legal practice centered on public defense for over 30 years, serving as Public Defender of Genesee County for the last 20 years. He is a founding member and past President of the Genesee Veterans Support Network, and served on NYSDA's Board of Directors for 12 years, including as Board Vice President. He received the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York Special Service Award in 2005, the NYS Bar Association Criminal Justice Section David S. Michaels Award in 2006, NYSDA's Wilfred R. O'Connor Award in 2011, and the 2016 Criminal Justice Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness-NYS. He has a J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science from Hobart College.