



1800 Empire Blvd #337, Webster, NY 145804 585-503-6826

itcouldhappen@rochester.rr.com www.itcouldhappen2you.org

**IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU
MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT
DISCOVERY FOR JUSTICE REFORM ACT**

S.1716 Bailey

A. 1431 Lentol

The Pillar for Criminal Justice in America is the Presumption of Innocence Until Proven Guilty. A fundamental foundation for this pillar is the legal and civil right of the accused and those they choose to defend them to receive all evidence in the possession of the prosecutor which may be used them. This right is clear in the 1964 Supreme Court Ruling Brady v. Maryland.

The Discovery for Justice Reform Act is consistent with these fundamental principles of individuals rights and liberty as advanced by America's Founding Fathers.

It Could Happen To You urges every member of the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo to support the enactment of Senate Bill 1716 and Assembly Bill 1431 which demands the common sense- early, complete, automatic disclosure of the evidence prosecutors are relying on to make their case against a defendant. This is vital to both fairness and efficiency in criminal justice.

Should you, family or friend be accused of any crime including a violent felony such as rape and murder would you want the defense attorney to have the early disclosure of witness names and contact information to prepare a proper defense.?

Today-There is no assurance that will happen. And the lack of that insurance to protect one's right of innocence until proven guilty is an insult to New York State's system of criminal justice and demands correction.

IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU and the wrongfully prosecuted and convicted who align with our broad statewide coalition request your vote for the Discovery for Justice Reform Act which will require:

- Information available at arraignment be turned over immediately at arraignment.
- Early Disclosure of Written Names and Contact Information as is required in numerous states including the bordering neighboring Massachusetts and New Jersey.
- Immediate Disclosure of Police Reports.
- Pre- Plea Bargaining Discovery

If you believe an accused individual should have the civil right to enable their defense lawyer to conduct an intelligent investigation, to plan appropriate trial strategy, and to confirm the strength of the prosecution's evidence (when appropriate) to a defendant considering a guilty plea then you must support the Discovery for Justice Reform Act.

In the past 10 years It Could Happen To You has addressed thousands of individuals in numerous forums across New York State. Participants are shocked to learn they are not legally protected by these rights in their state.