

## ARRAIGNMENT B INFORMATION SHEET – ENGLISH

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I've been assigned by the Court To help you today. I'm a private lawyer and a member of the Court's "18B" panel. The 18B panel is a group of private lawyers who are called upon at certain times to represent people. I've been assigned by the Court to be here today to represent everyone on today's calendar who does not have a lawyer with them. Even if you can afford to pay for a lawyer, **there is no charge to you for my services today.**

### THE APPEARANCE TICKET

The law states that when a police officer is authorized to arrest you, he may, in certain cases, give you an appearance ticket instead. You are here today because you were given such a ticket.

### TODAY'S PROCEEDING IS CALLED THE ARRAIGNMENT

The arraignment is your first appearance in court. The purpose of the arraignment is for you to be told what you're charged with, for you to enter a plea to the charge and for the judge to set bail on you or release you with no bail. If the judge sets bail, the court will only accept cash. The judge can set bail even if the police gave you a ticket to come to court today with no bail. The judge can also raise the police bail to a higher amount. **The information on the next page will help me represent you so that I can try to have the judge set a low bail or release you with no bail. Please answer all questions as carefully as possible.**

**Keep these papers with you until the clerk calls your name. Listen carefully and when you hear your name, answer "Here" in a loud voice, step up to the lectern, stand on my right side and hand me these papers.** I will return them to you when your arraignment is over and you may take them home with you and call me if you have any questions about what happened in court.

### WHAT HAPPENS AFTER TODAY

After today's proceeding, the Judge will give you an adjourned date on which you must return. The next stage is called the conference stage, where your case will be "conferenced" (discussed) with your attorney, the assistant district attorney and the judge. **The judge will therefore urge you to have a lawyer with you on your next court date.** If you can afford one, you'll have to hire a private lawyer. If you think you can't afford one, the judge will have you screened. If you qualify as one who can't pay, the judge will assign you a lawyer free of charge. Remember: If you should have any questions about what happened today, please feel free to communicate with me at the above telephone number and I will try to assist you in any way possible.