



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **State Public Defender's Office Receives *Patriot Award* Agency Recognized for Supporting Staff Participation in the Guard and Reserve**

(Madison) The Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office (SPD) received the *Patriot Award* from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve during a ceremony earlier today, April 15, 2013. Air National Guard Master Sergeant Will Mattert, an investigator with the SPD, and the National Committee's Jack Hemb presented the award to State Public Defender Kelli Thompson.

The Patriot Award recognizes employers who support a strong National Guard and Reserve force. Employers qualify for recognition by adopting and following personnel policies that support employee participation in the Guard and Reserve.

In accepting the award on behalf of the agency, State Public Defender Kelli Thompson said, "We are honored to assist our men and women in the Guard and Reserve. As they unselfishly serve our country, they deserve the strong support of their family, friends, and employers. Today marks the second time the agency has received the Patriot Award, and we are very proud to continue our support."

"We have a number of staff active in the Guard and Reserve, and our heartfelt thanks go out to these staff. Will, who nominated the agency for the award, will start back on active duty next week. The entire agency stands behind Will, and all of our staff who serve in the Armed Forces, with well-wishes and we look forward to their safe return back to their families and to the SPD," added Thompson.

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