



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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## Honoring 35 Years of State Public Defender Trial Offices

### Fond du Lac and Juneau Trial Offices First to Open 35 Years Ago

(Madison) Thirty-five years ago, the Office of the State Public Defender (SPD) opened its first two trial offices: one in Fond du Lac and the other in Juneau. To commemorate this occasion, State Public Defender Kelli Thompson will join SPD staff and guests from other justice agencies at an open-house scheduled for July 18 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the SPD's Fond du Lac Office (160 South Macy Street, 3rd Floor in Fond du Lac). Thompson will also join staff and guests at the SPD's Juneau Office (820 North Main Street in Juneau) from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m.

The SPD started as an independent, executive-branch state agency in 1977. At that time appellate offices, which provide representation to clients who wish to appeal their convictions, were transferred to the new agency from the Supreme Court. The first trial offices were opened the following year.

The agency now operates 35 trial offices, 2 appellate offices, and a central administrative office to meet the state's constitutional responsibilities regarding indigent defense. In the last fiscal year, the SPD represented clients in almost 140,000 cases.

In recognition of the occasion, State Public Defender Thompson stated, "The SPD has built an extremely capable agency from the very beginnings of our Fond du Lac and Juneau offices as well as our appellate offices. We have earned our reputation in the state's criminal justice systems and in the national indigent defense community."

"I'm proud that our agency has roots in this part of the state and specifically in these two offices. It's a testament to the wonderful staff who have come before us and to our current team of staff members," added Regional Attorney Manager Mary Wolfe, who supervises the Fond du Lac and Juneau Offices.