



Wisconsin State Public Defender

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State Public Defender Kelli Thompson's statement on Governor Walker's signing of the budget bill

Governor Walker's signing of the budget bill today contains provisions which continue Wisconsin's long history of support for the State Public Defender. The budget recognizes the value of providing parity in terms of compensation to Assistant State Public Defenders, thereby assisting the agency in retaining its committed and experienced staff attorneys. I thank Governor Walker and our legislature for supporting our staff who are protecting the rights of the accused in all of Wisconsin's courthouses.

The budget also provided needed funding for payments to private attorneys who accept agency appointments in conflict and overflow cases as well as additional funding for transcripts and discovery. Lastly, the budget moves the State Public Defender to a block grant funded-agency, joining the State Courts in this funding mechanism. And while the budget did not include a raise in the reimbursement rate for private attorneys taking agency appointments, the agency will continue to be strong advocates on this important issue.