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SPD Announces 2019 Award Recipients

Bill Harrigan of Grafton's Harrigan Solutions, Madison Attorney Michael Covey, & Milwaukee SPD Attorney Sally Barrientes Among Recipients

(Madison) The State Public Defender's Office (SPD) will honor its 2019 award recipients during today's opening of the SPD's annual conference in Milwaukee.

The Public Defender Board will present its *Eisenberg Award* to Bill Harrigan of Grafton's Harrigan Solutions, who created an initiative to hire formerly-incarcerated individuals and, through extensive training, mentoring, and self-reflection, have them work towards a better future. The Board will also present its newly-named *Berkos Award* to private attorney Michael Covey of Madison for his dedication to SPD clients and his willingness to travel in order to represent agency clients.

Public Defender Board Vice Chair Regina Dunkin congratulated both recipients, stating, "Bill Harrigan's efforts to help individuals involved in the system become contributing community members and employees is truly inspirational. In addition, Attorney Covey is a valued partner because of his dedicated work on behalf of agency clients."

The SPD will also present the *Chiarkas Award* to Milwaukee Assistant State Public Defender Sally Barrientes for her leadership in going over and above in her job, and will present the *Rubin Award* to the Milwaukee Trial Office for its efforts to engage the Milwaukee community through its outreach efforts.

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson added, "Both the Chiarkas Award and Rubin Award are reflective of what makes our agency special. Sally Barrientes has a long history of putting in the extra work that helps her office and her local justice system work more effectively. And the staff of our Milwaukee Trial Office have proactively engaged the community through efforts such as school talks and presentations to other justice system professionals. We are so fortunate to have staff consistently go above-and-beyond."

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