



Wisconsin State Public Defender

Kelli S. Thompson
State Public Defender

315 N. Henry St., 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 7923 Madison, WI 53707-7923
Phone: 608.266.0087/Fax: 608.267.0584
www.wisspd.org

Michael Tobin
Deputy State Public
Defender

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ISSUED: September 20, 2018
CONTACT: Randy Kraft 608-267-3587, kraftr@opd.wi.gov

SPD's Tom Reed Receives Legal Aid Society's Equal Justice Award

(Madison) Tom Reed, Regional Attorney Manager for the Wisconsin State Public Defender (SPD), was one of three 2018 recipients awarded the Legal Aid Society's Thomas G. Cannon Equal Justice Medal. The medal recognizes "extraordinary contributions to the Society's mission to provide equal justice for the poor." The award was presented earlier today during the Society's 102nd Anniversary Luncheon in Milwaukee.

Tom Reed manages the SPD's largest office, which provides trial-level representation to adult clients in Milwaukee County. Tom and his team oversee 82 staff who provide legal representation in almost 16,000 cases each year, comprising cases handled directly by SPD staff attorneys and cases assigned to private attorneys certified by SPD.

In accepting his award, Tom recognized the work of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee in assisting individuals who lack the resources to hire attorneys. Additionally, Tom highlighted the importance of equal justice in addressing Milwaukee's social issues and the key role that lawyers can play in this process.

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson, who attended the ceremony, offered, "This award is such a great and well-deserved honor for Tom. He plays an integral leadership role in the agency, is deeply committed to our clients, and proactively works with our partners in a variety of efforts to improve the entire justice system. Tom is often called upon to provide his perspective locally, statewide, and nationally, and the SPD is a better agency because of him."

###