

****PRESS RELEASE****

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**State Public Defender Nicholas Chiarkas Elected to
Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc. Board of Directors**

**Nicholas Chiarkas to Serve On Board That Recognizes
World-Class Excellence in Wisconsin Organizations**

(Madison) Wisconsin State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas was elected to the Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc. Board of Directors. Chiarkas' term will run from February 2002 to February 2003.

Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc. promotes world-class excellence in Wisconsin-based organizations. Using the renowned Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Performance Excellence as its basis, Wisconsin Forward institutes a rigorous evaluation process that allows Wisconsin organizations to demonstrate its superior management principals and practices.

"It is a great honor to be able to serve Wisconsin Forward Award, Inc. as a Board member. I applaud the efforts of Wisconsin Forward and strongly believe in its mission of encouraging Wisconsin organizations to strive for excellence. Not only do we owe it to our great state of Wisconsin, but organizations also owe it to their stakeholders, whether they be a stockholder or a taxpayer," stated Nicholas Chiarkas.

"I know that I would not be in a position to receive this honor if it were not for the dedicated SPD staff who pursue excellence in courthouses and our offices, throughout the state each and every day," added Chiarkas.

The Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office was only the second state agency to ever receive a Wisconsin Forward Award, having received such an award in 2000. The agency is currently in contention for an award for 2001.

Chiarkas' election comes on the heels of his recent election to the Alumni Executive Council at Harvard University's JFK School of Government.

State Public Defender Board Chair Daniel Berkos noted, "Nick Chiarkas will make a great addition to the Wisconsin Forward organization. He not only embodies its values of pursuing excellence, but he has been able to successfully implement these values, in the most cost-effective way for all Wisconsin taxpayers, within the State Public Defender's Office. Under Nick's guidance, he has molded the agency to what it is today: a model that others continue to emulate throughout the world."

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