



Wisconsin State Public Defender

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State Public Defender's Deb Smith Recognized as a "Leaders In The Law 2004"

(Madison) Deb Smith, Assigned Counsel Division Director for the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office (SPD), will be honored as a "Wisconsin Leaders In The Law 2004" at a ceremony in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 23, 2004. This prestigious award recognizes Deb's leadership and innovation in working with those that provide legal representation to the poor.

Upon hearing of the honor, Deb said, "I certainly thank State Public Defender Nick Chiarkas for nominating me and the Wisconsin Law Journal for sponsoring this award. The successes we have achieved in the SPD's Assigned Counsel Division could not have been possible without the support and dedication of the SPD staff as well as our partners in the private bar."

State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas stated, "Deb has proven to be a wonderful leader in not just our agency, but in the entire criminal justice system. In a very short time frame, Deb's leadership has been felt by our clients and our partners practicing in private law practices."

"I strive to make a positive difference in people," Smith added.

The award, sponsored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*, will be presented during a 6:00 pm ceremony on March 23, 2004 at the Milwaukee Athletic Club. Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley will be the featured keynote speaker.

The State Public Defender's Office is the state agency that delivers legal representation to individuals charged with crimes and who meet financial eligibility requirements. As the SPD's Assigned Counsel Division Director, Deb provides oversight for the process that involves the appointment and payments to over 1,000 private attorneys.

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