



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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## **SPD's Eileen Hirsch to Receive National Juvenile Justice Award**

### **SPD Appellate Attorney Recognized for her Landmark Work**

(Madison) Eileen Hirsch, Assistant State Public Defender in the Wisconsin State Public Defender's (SPD) Madison Appellate Office, will receive the American Bar Association's Livingston Hall Juvenile Justice Award in San Francisco on August 12, 2007. Attorney Hirsch is being recognized for her outstanding appellate advocacy for children's rights and interests, and for her litigation of *In re Jerrell C. J.*, where she persuaded the Wisconsin Supreme Court to adopt an electronic recording requirement for all juvenile interrogations.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas nominated Attorney Hirsch for the award. Wisconsin Governor James C. Doyle submitted a letter of support for her nomination.

Chief Justice Abrahamson stated, "Attorney Hirsch is very deserving of this recognition. We've known of her commendable work in Wisconsin for quite some time, and it is a great source of pride to know she is now being recognized on a national level."

The Juvenile Justice Committee of the Criminal Justice Section of the ABA established the award in 1985 to recognize lawyers practicing in the juvenile delinquency field who have demonstrated a high degree of skill, commitment, and professionalism in representing their young clients. Since then, 36 unsung heroes - defense attorneys, litigators, law professors, judges, and prosecutors - have been honored for exemplary work over a career, or for particularly important work on an aspect of juvenile justice practice or policy.

State Public Defender Chiarkas added, "Under Eileen's leadership, our Juvenile Appeal Unit has been a zealous advocate for children's rights. Because of her work in *Jerrell C.J.*, Wisconsin has embraced an important reform that will protect the innocent from wrongful convictions. Eileen's outstanding appellate advocacy, in the little cases and the big cases, helps ensure justice for all."

Attorney Hirsch is one of four SPD attorneys who focus on appeals of juvenile delinquency and child in need of protection or services adjudications. Additionally, she is a member of the Board of Directors of the Midwest Regional Juvenile Defender Center, the State Bar of Wisconsin Children & the Law Section, and the Children's Justice Project at the UW Law School. Attorney Hirsch graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1977.

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