



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*

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## **SPD's Nicholas Chiarkas Elected to National Legal Aid & Defender Association Board of Directors**

(Madison) Wisconsin State Public Defender Nicholas Chiarkas was elected to the National Legal Aid & Defender Association's (NLADA) Board of Directors. The 24-member Board provides expert counsel to the association regarding its policies and services.

The NLADA is a leading national organization that focuses on the equal justice community comprised of defender programs, legal aid programs and individual advocates. As a voice in the national arena on issues that impact the civil and defender legal services communities, the NLADA has been a strong advocate since its inception in 1911.

"It is a great honor to serve the equal justice community on a national scale. As a NLADA Board Member, I will certainly draw from Wisconsin's model defender program as well as Wisconsin's sense of justice and fairness," stated Nicholas Chiarkas.

State Public Defender Board Chair Daniel Berkos noted, "In recent years, Nick has been tapped to help reform the public defender systems of other countries and other states. So, it certainly doesn't surprise me that a national organization is connecting into Nick's expertise."

Berkos added, "I also think it reflects well not only on the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office, but on Wisconsin in general."

Chiarkas, a former New York City Police Officer, was previously elected to the Wisconsin Forward Inc. Board of Directors and the Alumni Executive Council at Harvard University's JFK School of Government. Aside from a law degree from Temple University, he has earned a Doctorate degree from Columbia University and Master degrees from both Columbia University and City University of New York.

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