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Rhineland Public Defender Honored

(Madison) The Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) recently named Attorney Ann Munninghoff as the recipient of the 2007 David C. Niblack Award. Munninghoff, the Attorney Manager for the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office in Rhineland which serves Oneida, Vilas, Florence and Forest Counties, was presented with the award during WACDL's annual ethics seminar in Madison on December 2, 2007.

David C. Niblack was the State Public Defender from 1979 to 1983. To honor his memory and encourage others to follow in the footsteps of a man who spent his career advocating for the protection of the rights of the poor, WACDL established the David C. Niblack Award in 2001. The purpose of the award, according to the WACDL website, is to recognize the contributions of an attorney in the effective defense of the indigent, either cumulative career contributions or outstanding accomplishments.

WACDL Board Member, Attorney Patrick Schilling, stated "the criteria for this award includes pride and professionalism in one's work, competence in providing services, and respect for their clients. This is a perfect characterization of Ann and her dedication to the clients she has served over the nearly 20 years she has worked for the SPD."

Munninghoff, who plans to retire from the SPD next January stated, "I am so pleased and honored. Dave Niblack was the Public Defender when I first started with the Agency, in fact he hired me. I had a tremendous amount of respect for him, and this is just such a wonderful retirement present."

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