

**RESOLUTION  
OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD**

**WHEREAS;** The State Public Defender Board of Directors recognizes that people of color receive disparate treatment in the Wisconsin criminal justice system and that African Americans and Hispanics constitute a disproportionate percentage of incarcerated populations in Wisconsin.

**WHEREAS;** People of color do not commit more crimes, yet, in Wisconsin, people of color have more contact with law enforcement, are arrested more often, are prosecuted more often, are found guilty more often, and are sentenced to longer sentences.

**WHEREAS;** We believe that there is substantial evidence of racial disparity in Wisconsin's justice system.

**WHEREAS;** We believe that action is necessary to address this injustice. The SPD is uniquely situated to shed a bright light on the issues that the criminal justice system needs to address. Through litigation, community work and other efforts, the SPD can point to instances of injustice and unfairness and advocate for race neutral treatment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** The State Public Defender Board of Directors supports the staff as they engage in the following activities in an effort to eradicate racial disparity in the Wisconsin criminal justice system that is wholly consistent with the State Public Defender MISSION STATEMENT:

Localize the racial disparity issue in their communities by sharing information about disparity with judges, prosecutors and law enforcement;

Educate the public and stakeholders on the prevalence and effect of racial disparity in their local communities;

Create opportunities for the public to participate in efforts to eradicate racial disparity in our justice system;

Position the issue so that it is a topic of discussion until racial disparity in our justice system is eradicated;

Partner with individuals, associations, groups, etc. to work on this issue and accomplish the above listed goals.

Adopted August 27, 2008 by the State Public Defender Board.

---

Daniel M. Berkos  
Chairperson, Public Defender Board