



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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## State Public Defender Appellate Attorney Named Leader In The Law

### Attorney Ellen Henak Recognized by Wisconsin Law Journal

(Madison) The Wisconsin State Public Defender's (SPD) Ellen Henak was honored as a Leader In The Law for 2009. Attorney Henak, an Assistant State Public Defender in the SPD's Milwaukee Appellate Office, received her recognition during a luncheon ceremony on May 19 in Milwaukee.

Sponsored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*, the Leader In The Law awards recognize top members of the state's legal community. Recipients are recognized for achievement criteria including outstanding leadership, vision, legal expertise, and community impact.

State Public Defender Nicholas Chiarkas stated, "Ellen's dedication to the profession and her clients is truly noteworthy. Aside from her skillful litigation, Ellen also has a history of service to the profession demonstrated through her efforts to mentor and train attorneys as well as students looking at careers in the legal profession. We're pleased that this award will serve to highlight her work."

In hearing of the honor, Henak said, "I am thrilled to receive this award. I am especially pleased that it recognizes the importance and value of the role public defenders play every day within our justice system."

Henak has served as an Assistant State Public Defender in the Milwaukee Appellate Office since 1991. She has a proven history of quality litigation of appeals and other post-dispositional cases in criminal, juvenile, protective placement, termination of parental rights, and civil commitment cases involving indigent clients.

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