



Wisconsin State Public Defender

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RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM CONFERENCE State Public Defender's Office Annual Conference Asks "Justice For ALL?"

Milwaukee – The State Public Defender's Office (SPD) annual conference starts Thursday, September 24, 2009. The two-day conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, and attracts approximately 1,000 participants from Wisconsin and surrounding states.

This year's conference is entitled, "Justice For *ALL*? Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System". National and state speakers will largely focus on a number of aspects of this timely and paramount issue, including:

- Poverty, the SPD's outdated financial eligibility guidelines and its impact on racial disparity
- Racial disparities, the justice system and the culture of incarceration
- Racial disparity: What the Governor's Commission has done and its future agenda
- Talking to juries about race
- Addressing healthcare disparities among Wisconsin county jail inmates
- What court data reveals about the pragmatic side of criminal defense

Ms. Lynn Overmann, Senior Policy Advisor for the United States Department of Justice will deliver the keynote address. Other speakers include Vincent Warren of the Center for Constitutional Rights and Dr. Alan Bean of Friends of Justice.

During the conference's opening session (8:30 am on September 24), the Public Defender Board will recognize four individuals/organizations who have been instrumental in developing the Wisconsin Veterans Intervention Program:

- Rock County Chief Judge James Daley
- Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
- UW-Law School's Frank J. Remington Center
- Dr. Dean Krahn, Wm. S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hosp.'s Chief of Mental Health Services

Each will receive the Board's Eisenberg Award, in recognition of their impact on Wisconsin's justice system.

General information about the conference can be found at <http://www.wisspd.org/html/training/Info.pdf>, and the conference's agenda can be found at <http://www.wisspd.org/html/training/Info.pdf>.

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