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WISCONSIN VETERANS INTERVENTION PROGRAM'S CONTRIBUTORS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC DEFENDER AWARD

PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD NAMES 2009 EISENBERG AWARD RECIPIENTS

(Madison) The Public Defender Board will honor four key contributors to the Wisconsin Veterans Intervention Program (WI-VIP) with the 2009 Eisenberg Award:

- Judge James Daley, Presiding Judge, Rock County Circuit Court
- Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs
- Frank J. Remington Center, UW-Law School
- Dr. Dean Krahn, Mental Health Services Chief, Wm S. Middleton Memorial Hospital

The ceremony will take place at 8:30 a.m. on September 24, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee (333 West Kilbourn Avenue) during the State Public Defender's Conference. Public Defender Board Chair Daniel Berkos and Public Defender Board Vice-Chair Joseph Morales will present the awards.

The Public Defender Board's Eisenberg Award honors leaders in Wisconsin's justice system. The award, first created in 2003, recognizes those who make positive and enduring enhancements to Wisconsin's justice system and a distinct improvement in the lives of others.

WI-VIP was established in the past year, and includes a veterans treatment court that ensures veterans receive the treatment they need to address issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Wisconsin's program is unique in that it is a true wrap-around program that offers our veterans a resource for their civil legal issues as well. Each award-winner has played a major role in the development of WI-VIP and these services for our veterans:

Judge James Daley, Rock County Circuit Court Presiding Judge, started Wisconsin's first veterans treatment court on September 17, 2009.

The Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs, under the leadership of John Scocos and Bill Kloster, has lent their and networking from the very beginning.

The Frank J. Remington Center at the UW-Law School is making the Wisconsin Veterans Intervention Program unique by incorporating a civil legal clinic for veterans into its clinical programs.

Dr. Dean Krahn, Wm S. Middleton Memorial Hospital's Chief of Mental Health Services, has supported the initiative from the beginning, lending his expertise and access to federal funding for many of the underlying activities.

“Our veterans give so much to all of us and our country through their dedication and sacrifices,” stated Public Defender Board Chair Daniel Berkos. “And it is so heartening that our recipients have taken the honorable steps to give something back to our veterans.”

State Public Defender Nicholas L. Chiarkas added, “Too many veterans are ending up in our justice system due to problems stemming from combat-related issues. The Wisconsin Veterans Intervention Program will help address these critical issues for our veterans, and ultimately thank them by supporting them with a fresh start.”

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