

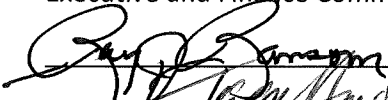
Resolution 30-8-2018


RE: Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Compensation for Defense Counsel Assigned by the State Public Defender

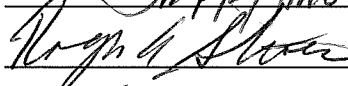
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender to ensure that the criminal justice system operates effectively and efficiently, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the Public Defender to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are handled in a timely and efficient manner; and

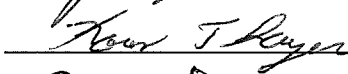
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Counties Association, our state legislators and to each Wisconsin county.

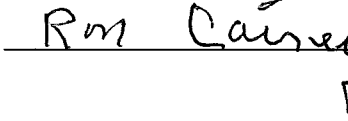
Executive and Finance Committee:











Background Information: Both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin provide that persons accused of crime have the right to counsel. In Wisconsin, the Office of the State Public Defender ("SPD") provides counsel to those persons meeting income eligibility guidelines for services. Where the SPD is unable to provide representation, due to conflict or other reason, the SPD appoints private attorneys to provide representation. Almost 40% of all SPD cases are appointed to private attorneys.

The compensation rate for private bar appointed attorneys in Wisconsin has not been increased since 1995. It is the lowest in the nation, failing to even cover an appointed attorney's overhead costs. As a result, private attorneys are increasingly declining to accept SPD appointments, which is creating an increasing burden on the courts and Wisconsin Counties. Costs to counties are increasing as circuit court judges are being forced to appoint counsel at county expense and accused person are being held in jail longer pending appointment of counsel. These delays also lead to inefficiency for courts and law enforcement agencies, and delay for obtaining justice for victims.