



# Wisconsin State Public Defender

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## **3 SPD Attorneys Named 2017 Women In The Law**

### **Suzanne Hagopian, Kathy Pakes, & Laura Sette Recognized**

(Madison) State Public Defender (SPD) Attorneys Suzanne Hagopian, Kathy Pakes, and Laura Sette will be honored as 2017 Women In The Law during a ceremony on June 7, 2017 in Milwaukee. The award, sponsored by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*, formally recognizes the state's outstanding women in the practice of law. As a result of their own achievements, each of the recipients have also paved the way for success for other women

Suzanne Hagopian has worked in the SPD's Madison Appellate Office since starting with the agency in 1990. She is known by her colleagues for her intelligence, skill, and poise, and she has litigated hundreds of cases at all three levels of our state court system and in federal court. Suzanne has had numerous petitions for review granted by the Wisconsin Supreme Court over the course of her career, resulting in her involvement in cases before that court that have helped to shape the laws of our state.

Kathy Pakes started with the SPD in 2010, serving first as the agency's Legal Counsel and for the past five years as the agency's Assigned Counsel Division Director, overseeing the agency's certification and reimbursement of private attorneys who take SPD appointments. Kathy's broad experience before joining the SPD includes handling civil cases in private practice, litigating adult trial and appellate cases for the Louisville-Jefferson County Public Defender, and serving as the Rusk County District Attorney for 10 years. Kathy maintains her connection to the courtroom and has developed a special skill set in abusive head trauma cases, which require extensive review of medical records and consultations with expert witnesses.

Laura Sette started with the SPD 10 years ago, working first for the Racine Trial Office before transferring to the Waukesha Trial Office 6 years ago. Laura is a tireless advocate for children, young adults, and mentally ill individuals. She sits on many committees that work to better the lives of SPD clients. As an example, Laura is the Chair of Waukesha's Alternatives to Sanctions Committee, which is helping to find creative, productive responses to the behavior of children who have not followed Court orders.

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson noted, "Laura, Kathy, and Suzanne represent the range of attorneys working in this agency to help our clients: a trial attorney, an administrator, and an appellate attorney. They each are deserving of this honor, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved distinction."

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