



Wisconsin State Public Defender

315 N. Henry St., 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 7923 Madison, WI 53707-7923
Phone: 608.266.0087/Fax: 608.267.0584
www.wisspd.org

Kelli S. Thompson
State Public Defender

Michael Tobin
Deputy State Public
Defender

* * * PRESS RELEASE * * *

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ISSUED: February 27, 2014
CONTACT: Randy Kraft 608-267-3587

SPD's Jennifer Bias Named 2014 Leader In The Law

(Madison) The State Public Defender's (SPD) Jennifer Bias has been named a 2014 Leader In The Law by the *Wisconsin Law Journal*. Jennifer will be recognized during a ceremony scheduled for tonight, February 27, 2014, in Milwaukee.

Jennifer, the agency's Affirmative Action Officer and Deputy Trial Division Director, also leads the SPD's specialty practice groups. Under her oversight, these groups share their expertise in complex areas of the law, including forensics and homicides, thereby providing a resource for all SPD attorneys statewide.

State Public Defender Kelli Thompson lauded Jennifer as "an extremely valuable member of the agency and is well deserving of this recognition. Jennifer's work in creating the agency's specialty practice groups has significantly enhanced the quality of legal representation throughout Wisconsin."

"Jennifer also plays an important role addressing the issue of disproportionate minority contact within the criminal justice system. She has truly been a leader on this very substantial and emotional issue," added Thompson.

Jennifer Bias started with the SPD 26 years ago as an assistant state public defender in the agency's Racine Trial Office. She subsequently was promoted to Deputy Regional Manager and Regional Attorney Manager of the SPD's Racine Region, before her promotion to Affirmative Action Officer and Deputy Trial Division Director.

###