

# Assigned Counsel Division Newsletter

Volume 15, November 2017

## SPD Online Billing System Changes

The updates to the billing system are now up and running. After working through a couple of problems, the system appears to be operating smoothly. We thank you for your patience as we resolved those issues. We also appreciate that attorneys have to learn new billing procedures. New instructions and tips for submitting time slips have been added to the SPD online billing site.

Follow the link below and click on the *(I)nstructions* tab at the top of the home page of your online attorney billing page. Please call ACD at (608)261-0632 if you need assistance or have any questions.

<https://pb.opd.wi.gov/pbaccess/login.aspx>

ACD staff will also be available for questions at this year's SPD Annual Conference. We will have hours at the private bar registration table from 10:30 am-4:30 pm on Thursday November 16 and from 9:00 am-1:00 pm on Friday November 17.

## Special points of interest:

- **2017 SPD Criminal Defense Conference**
- **SPD Online Billing System Changes**
- **Budget Update by Adam Plotkin**
- **Want to start representing juveniles? Sign up for the SPD Juvenile Training**
- **E-Filing & the Court Record**

## 2017 SPD Criminal Defense Conference

***50 Years After Gault: Continuing to Fulfill the Promise of Zealous Advocacy for Juveniles and Young Adults***

November 16-17, 2017  
Milwaukee Wisconsin

[Registration Form](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Conference Fee List](#)

[Lodging Information](#)

## SPD Budget Update by Adam Plotkin

In the 2017 biennial budget, a new concept for budgeting within the State Public Defender's office was approved by the legislature and Governor. The budget item has been dubbed "block grant" funding. This is a slight misnomer, but the result is that the SPD's various appropriations have been consolidated. There will still be separate accountings for spending on trial division, appellate division, and assigned counsel. Because a separate statute still sets the private bar rate, we are not able to use this authority to increase the hourly rate of assigned counsel compensation. The changes are likely to have the largest impact on how SPD budget staff enter and track expenses within the state budget system.

SPD does not anticipate significant changes to the current hybrid system of staff and assigned counsel representation. Operational responsibilities and demands will not allow for changes such as a significant shift towards staff attorneys and away from assigned counsel appointments.

Pending Legislation:

### Student Loan Payment Pilot Program

Assembly Bill 567 and Senate Bill 467 direct the Public Defender Board to establish a student loan payment pilot program for private bar attorneys who accept public defender appointments. The program would provide a payment to use to repay student loans of up to \$20,000 per year for attorneys who accept at least 50 SPD appointments per year in a county of fewer than 25,000 people. The bill provides \$250,000 GPR in each fiscal year of the 2017-19 biennium for the program.

## Interested in SPD Juvenile Case Appointments?

Juvenile defense is a specialized practice area that requires proficiency in criminal defense and a working knowledge of the Wisconsin Juvenile Justice Code, principles of adolescent development, relevant case law, and local resources and rules.

Sign up now for the SPD Juvenile Training.

### Representing Kids in Chapter 938 Juvenile Delinquency Cases

November 15

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

[Registration Form](#)

[Agenda](#)

## E-Filing and the Court Record

For case types that are e-filed, service of the court record will usually be accomplished via your access to the e-filing system. When you opt-in to the e-filing system for a case (which you need to do promptly upon appointment, so that court reporters have a way of serving you with the requested transcripts), you will have access to the electronic court record. Some cases might include items that cannot be made part of the e-filing system (a CD, for example). When that happens, service of the court record on the attorney will be completed when that is mailed to you.

Counties should not also be sending paper copies of the court record. You should print the electronic court record or maintain the electronic records in a format that allows you to print the materials, so that the court record is part of your client file. This is consistent with the [minimum attorney performance standards](#).