

Resolution 2018-28

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

WHEREAS, there is a severe shortage of Criminal Defense Attorneys in Sawyer County; and,

WHEREAS, State Public Defender Appointed Private Bar Attorneys regularly travel over 100 miles, one way, to represent Sawyer County clients; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County has the fifth (5th) highest percentage of people living in poverty in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the lack of Defense Attorneys is causing excessive delays and inefficiencies for the Sawyer County Criminal Justice System, including but not limited to excessive pretrial confinement in the Sawyer County Jail; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to protect the Constitutional Rights of the citizens of Sawyer County, the Sawyer County Circuit Court Judge is being forced to appoint private attorneys to represent individuals at the expense of the citizens of Sawyer County; and,

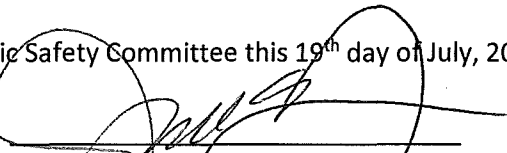
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender ensuring the criminal justice system is operated effectively and efficiently thereby protecting the constitutional rights of its citizens, 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, efficient and competent manner; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Wisconsin State Public Defender, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, all members of the state legislature, and to each Wisconsin county.


FISCAL IMPACT: None

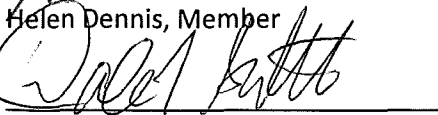
Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Public Safety Committee this 19th day of July, 2018.


Bill Voight, Chairman


James Schiender, Vice-Chairman


Helen Dennis, Member


Ron Buckholtz, Member


Dale Schleeter, Member