

Carol Williamson
Sawyer County Clerk
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July 20, 2018

Wisconsin Supreme Court
110 E Main St. Ste 215
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Sawyer County Resolution #2018-28

Enclosed is a copy of Sawyer County Resolution #2018-28 Urging the State of Wisconsin to Increase Compensation for Defense Counsel Assigned by the State Public Defender. The Sawyer County Board approved the resolution on Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Williamson".

Carol Williamson
Sawyer County Clerk

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2018

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

Resolution 2018-28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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20 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State
21 of Wisconsin to provide sufficient resources to the Office of the Public Defender ensuring the criminal
22 justice system is operated effectively and efficiently thereby protecting the constitutional rights of its
23 citizens, including increasing the rate of reimbursement for private attorneys appointed by the Public
24 Defender to a market rate that will ensure the prompt appointment of counsel and that cases are
25 handled in a timely, efficient and competent manner; and

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

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32 **FISCAL IMPACT:** None

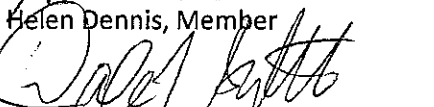
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34 Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Public Safety Committee this 19th day of July, 2018.

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37 Bill Voight, Chairman

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40 James Schender, Vice-Chairman

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43 Helen Dennis, Member

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46 Ron Buckholtz, Member

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49 Dale Schleeter, Member