

Carrie Janto - Raise the private bar SPD appointed counsel rate

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Subject: Raise the private bar SPD appointed counsel rate

I stopped taking these cases recently because I feel disrespected. \$40 per hour (the lowest in the nation) is an injustice for the client and the lawyer. It does not even pay for my actual time and overhead expenses; and it does not compensate me based upon my 17 years as a criminal defense attorney.

SPD staff attorneys get health insurance; paid time off; vacations and retirement plans. SPD appointed attorneys get a 1099 and have to pay all taxes.

While writing this, I took an out of county case (by email) which is a 3 hour drive from Milwaukee. I caved in and took the case because the SPD is scouring the state to get an attorney for this guy. I felt sorry for him.

Paying us more is the right thing to do. More experienced defense attorneys will be willing to take these cases. This will result in clients spending LESS time in prisons which will benefit taxpayers. Prison is not the cure for this problem.

Another problem we have is that the state takes 60-90 days (or more) to pay us. This means that we are working for free for up to a year before we see any money.

It's my understanding that independent contractors hired by state are required by law to be paid within 30 days. We are not because we're just criminal defense attorneys defending criminals.

<https://profiles.superlawyers.com/wisconsin/milwaukee/lawyer/patrick-rupich/0b6602d8-593e-473a-b057-078140f2ac1e.html>

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Defense attorneys in Milwaukee, WI. He has met
the stringent Super Lawyers selection criteria.