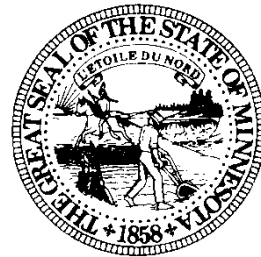


Introduction



Michael Kuehn
Managing Attorney
State of Minnesota
Board of Public Defense



Right to an Attorney

▶ United States Constitution, Sixth Amendment

- In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to . . . have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.
- Minnesota Constitution, Article 1, Section 6 – reiterates right to counsel.

Gideon v. Wainwright, United States Supreme Court, 1963

- “[L]awyers in criminal courts are necessities, not luxuries. The right of one charged with crime to counsel may not be deemed fundamental and essential to fair trials in some countries, but it is in ours. From the very beginning, our state and national constitutions and laws have laid great emphasis on procedural and substantive safeguards designed to assure fair trials before impartial tribunals in which every defendant stands equal before the law. This noble ideal cannot be realized if the poor man charged with crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer to assist him.”



Minnesota Public Defender

- ▶ State of Minnesota Board of Public Defense Mission Statement:
- ▶ **To provide excellent criminal and juvenile legal defense services to indigent clients through an independent, responsible and efficient public defender system.**



Minnesota Public Defender

- ▶ Coordinated and funded by the Board of Public Defense, Minnesota Public Defenders represent indigent accused people in each of Minnesota's 87 counties.
- ▶ Office of the Legislative Auditor – Evaluation Report (2010)
 - The Minnesota Board of Public Defense oversees the public defender system. The system is administered by the state public defender, district chiefs in each of the state's ten judicial districts, a chief appellate public defender, and a chief administrator. About 450 full- and part-time assistant public defenders represent clients.

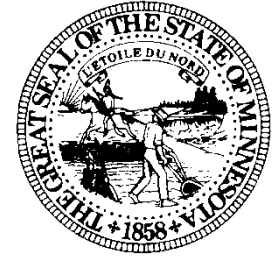


Roles/Responsibilities

- ▶ My Agency/Department/Organization
 - Winona Office of the Public Defender
- ▶ My Role
 - Supervise Winona, Houston, and Wabasha Counties
 - Represent individual clients
- ▶ Relationship to Criminal Justice System
 - Work with County Attorney
 - Appear in District Court
 - Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel (CJCC)
 - Treatment Court of Winona County (TCWC)



For More Information



Michael Kuehn

Winona Office – State of Minnesota Board of Public Defense
166 West Third Street, Suite 201
Winona, MN 55987

Phone: (507) 474-4460

[E-mail: michael.kuehn@pubdef.state.mn.us](mailto:michael.kuehn@pubdef.state.mn.us)

<https://www.pubdef.state.mn.us/>

