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Public Defender Commission

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JUNE 2019 VOLUME 11. ISSUE 3

Commission Calls for Public Comments on Compensation Standard

The Compensation Subcommittee of be reported at the September the Public Defender Commission was meeting as well. Written formed in 2017 to evaluate standards comments may be emailed to related to compensation of public information@pdcom.in.gov or defenders. The subcommittee has been mailed to the Commission's specifically exploring the issue of address above by September inequities for contractual public defenders 1, 2019. responsible for overhead expenses. The subcommittee is also examining whether to the standards are under the definition of "compensation" in the consideration: current standards should be revised. The full Commission considered the work of salary/contract amount for 100% FTE the subcommittee and has referred the (and pro-rated down to the FTE of issue to public comment.

the incongruity of allowing part-time prosecutor under IC 33-39-6-2 (\$68,012 public defenders to handle the same 100% or \$74,813 – or the midpoint of the two: full-time equivalent (FTE) caseload as \$71,412). Note: This amount adjusts full-time salaried public defenders and annually based upon judicial salaries. the challenges posed by calculating salary and benefit parity for public defenders, the cost of overhead and support staff especially those who are above "part for contractors and part-time salaried time" or 50% FTE.

recently concluded overhead studies attorney). that indicate overhead could range from \$58,000 to over \$90,000 per public time salaried from handling 100% FTE, defender. The Commission has recently such as limiting them to a caseload of no launched its own survey to determine the more than 75% FTE. realities of overhead for Indiana attorneys who operate a practice that includes have a cap below the maximum FTE of public defense.

will consider revisions the for compensation standards at its September responsibilities. 25, 2019, meeting and requests public comments at this time. Your comments approved changes: January 1, 2021. and suggestions are crucial to informing the Commission. The results of the be found on our website: https://www. overhead study and other information will in.gov/publicdefender.

The following changes

1. Creation of a minimum

each attorney). This could be the same The subcommittee has also discussed amount provided to a state-paid deputy

- 2. The addition of an amount to cover individuals, such as \$30,000 for 100% North Carolina and Michigan have FTE (pro-rated down to the FTE of each
 - 3. Limiting attorneys who are not full-
- 4. That chief public defenders should 100% (full time) and 60% (part time) <u>Call for Comments:</u> The Commission to compensate for the time commitment administrative supervisory
 - 5. Possible effective date for any

The formal request for comment can

Illustration of the concepts described in this article:	Base Salary	Overhead (\$30,000 per 1.0 FTE)	Total Amount Paid
Full Time Salary			
(County Employee) Salary (+ benefits)	\$ 71,412		\$ 71,412
		I	
Contractor Capped			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$ 53,559	\$22,500	\$ 76,059
Contractor Capped at .75 FTE	\$ 53,559	\$22,500	\$ 76,059
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	\$ 53,559	\$22,500	\$ 76,059

Stay up to date with the latest from the Commission!



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Commission Now Hiring Electronic Submission of Quarterly **Forms**

Financial Desk Audits Ongoing for All Counties

The Commission continues to analyze documentation is required. the Commission's policies and decision at, we'll review some samples: making. To enhance the quality and accuracy of the data we are able to review, We'll review the postage totals on the Figure 1 (below) is an example of an invoice submitted

Over the next year, commission staff accompanying invoices. will be conducting desk audits on each county. During these audits, counties We'll review the payments made to payment information (such as a county IV. Additionally, auditor printout or general ledger log) we may compare and possibly copies of invoices or the amounts to accounts payable vouchers. Counties will current pay parity receive ample notice of when the backup amounts applicable

Figure 1:

we are updating our reimbursement invoice compared to the total postage processes. One of the changes is to amount submitted on Form I. We'll also ensure we are correctly capturing all review the total hourly compensation public defense expenses both in total and amount listed for this attorney on Forms in the way the expenses are categorized. I, II, and IV to the amounts listed on their

Figure 2:

will be asked to submit documentation this employee from the auditor printout corresponding to their quarterly report. of transactions and match these amounts Generally, we will request detailed up to amounts listed on Forms I, II and

to the county/position. If you have any the data sent in each quarter to inform To get an idea of what we'll be looking questions about the upcoming audits. please contact us at information@pdcom.

to the county by an hourly attorney.

	Hrs/Rate	An	nount
Postage to client		\$	0.71
Postage to client		\$	0.50
Postage to client		\$	0.50
Postage to client		\$	0.71
Letter from client		\$	9.00
Motion/Order for DNA Testing	0.1	\$	13.50
Postage to client	0.15	\$	0.50
Attendance at Review Hearing: Waiting			
Time due to court congestion	1.4	\$	126.00

Figure 2 (below) is an example of an auditor general ledger report for a specified time period.

Effective	Budget Account					
Date	Code	Check	Description	Receipts	Expenditure	Acct Desc
Fund:	1000(100 items)					
1/11/2002	1000.10102.000.0271		Payroll	0	5660.15	Chief
19						Public
						Defender

Reimbursement Request Tips: Attorney Classification



ract unts	C. OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES
	1.Professional Services:
	a. Contract Counsel
ľ	b. Hourly Counsel
	Figure 2 (above)

how the attorney is paid.

Salaried attorneys (county For

of the reimbursement request the far right should denote the on Form I. Please note: the If you have any questions should be limited to salaried, status of each attorney. The classification of "assigned" or on this, please contact contract, or hourly based upon options are salaried, hourly, or "appointed" is not correct and Commission

Figure 1 (below) Salaried A. PERSONAL SERVICES should be listed as either Chief Public

1. Chief Public Defender Salary Defender 2. Chief Public Defender Benefits or Deputy Public3. Deputy PD Salaries and Compensation Defender in Section A of 4. Deputy PD Benefits Form I.

contract. See figure 3.

employees) should be reported attorneys in more than one way, a corresponding caseload under Section A lines 1-4 such as a part-time salaried record on Forms III and IV. If To assist our data collection on Form I. (See figure 1). attorney that also received an attorney is paid, but there efforts, it's important to Other attorneys paid either by hourly work, the attorney are no cases assigned during ensure everyone is reporting contract or on an hourly basis should be listed twice on Form the previous four quarters, the county information in should be listed under Section II and their corresponding please submit additional the same manner. Attorney C Lines 1a and b (see figure 2), compensation should be listed information with your emailed classification for the purposes On Form II, the column on in the appropriate categories submission to explain. should not be used.

Appropriately listing attorneys and splitting total compensation is necessary for the commission to ensure accurate data collection, conduct audits, and perform pay parity reviews.

Additionally, each attorney counties utilizing record on Form II should have

information@pdcom.in.gov.

HIGHEST PDCOM "STANDARD E"
QUALIFICATION

On Form II, attorneys should be listed with their name, compensation (not including benefits), highest qualification (ex. Adult Level 1-4), FTE (full-time, .66, etc), and compensation type (salaried, hourly, or contract). If an attorney is paid in multiple ways, a line should be entered for each one.

Commission/Council Launch Project to Develop Indiana-based Indicators of Quality Indigent Defense

In January 2018, the National Legal Aid and Defender September of 2020. Association (NLADA) released a document entitled "National Commission staff shall serve as lead agency on the project Indicators of Quality Indigent Defense." The document with Council staff support throughout all aspects of the project. contains 12 practice principles with indicators of a quality During this timeframe, the technical assistance providers will public defense attorney.

(Council) have been engaged in discussions regarding the group(s) will be developed from Indiana-based experts and importance of both caseloads and performance-based quality public defense practitioners to inform the efforts. measures. In February 2019, the US Department of Justice The Council and Commission will seek participation from a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) initiated a new round wide-array of stakeholders and will actively solicit volunteers of grant opportunities to receive free training and technical who are interested in this project to populate the work group(s). assistance (TTA) for initiatives that support the right to If you would like to volunteer to participate in this project, counsel. Bernice Corley with the Council and Derrick Mason please contact the Commission. with the Commission jointly applied to the BJA for this project
It is also anticipated that Commission Members, the Council and were recently informed that their request for TTA has been Board, and the Chief Public Defenders Association will receive

Objective: The objective of the TTA project is to develop prior to the completion of the project. Indiana-based indicators of quality indigent defense for adult Intended Use/Beneficiaries of the Project: The intent criminal cases that chief public defenders and local public behind the project will be to inform local public defense defense boards can use in the supervision of their county's boards and/or chief public defenders of additional performance public defense system. The project will also develop methods evaluation options that, when used, will improve public for gathering data and monitoring outcomes to determine defense outcomes. While these use of these indicators could be whether the developed indicators are effective or should be required in the future, it should be noted that the Commission modified. While the scope will be limited to adult criminal does NOT intend for the quality indicators to be used by the cases, it is expected that this project will provide a roadmap Commission to directly evaluate public defender performance for the future development of quality indicators in other areas or usurp any of the local-based authority for managing the of public defense practice.

National Criminal Justice Association will receive funding managers. from the U.S. Department of Justice to provide technical For further information about this project, please contact us assistance to the Council and Commission, ending around at information@pdcom.in.gov.

guide the Council and Commission through the project. The The Commission and the Indiana Public Defender Council details are still being developed, but it is anticipated that work

regular updates on the project with ample opportunity for input

quality of locally-based public defense attorneys. Instead, it **Duration**: Staff or contractors from the NLADA and the is designed to be a tool made available to the county-based

Commission Thanks Larry Landis for Years of Service

Upon his last meeting as Vice Chair the State of Indiana that was inscribed: Mr. Landis of the Public Defender Commission, the "With gratitude for founding the Indiana will remain Commission took an opportunity to thank Public Defender Commission and in a member Larry Landis for his commitment and to tribute to a four-decade career spent in of wish him well. Mr. Landis was presented loyal dedication to the cause of public Commission with an engraved plaque, in the shape of defense in the State of Indiana."

the Commission replacement Additionally, unveiled a new tribute that will remain at is named by the Commission headquarters, intended the Indiana to honor Mr. Landis. It is inscribed: Criminal "This plague is a tribute to Larry A. Justice Landis for his visionary leadership in Institute, public defense; for his service to the which has State of Indiana, and for founding and signaled its serving on the Indiana Public Defender intention to Commission."

Although his term has now expired, scheduled for September 6.

until



make an appointment at its next meeting,

Regionalization: A New Option for Public Defense Offices

With the enactment of Senate Enrolled Act 488, counties now have an additional option to consider in public defense delivery systems: Regionalization. The intention of this option is to create the ability to leverage economies of scale, sharing attorneys, investigators, and other support staff across county lines to provide the best options for public defense delivery. The change in law allows the Commission to reimburse "multicounty" offices in the same manner that counties are currently reimbursed.

In order to create a multicounty system, each county executive must adopt an ordinance allowing the county to enter into an interlocal agreement. The counties would then agree to establish a joint board to oversee the operation. The Commission will provide guidance through the process if requested.

The counties would agree to a single point of contact for commission reimbursement, and the funds would be distributed as agreed to by the interlocal agreement. Advantages of establishing a multicounty office include: 1. Ability to share the cost of the Chief Public Defender and other personnel across county lines; 2. The option to tap expertise in staff from other counties in such matters as Appeals, CHINS, TPR, or other specialty areas where a right to counsel exists; and 3. Centralizing responsibility for fiscal management, limiting the burden to one agreed-upon county.

Regionalization of services is completely optional, and the Commission has no intent to force this option on any county. However, this may be a good option for smaller counties to cosider. It may also be an option that could encourage counties not currently particiapting in the Commission's reimuresment system to see opportunities for shared expenses both with the state and neighboring coutnies. The primary purpose of this option is to increase the quality of services provided to public defense clients.

The Commission will be developing further guidance on this concept and it will be covered at our October training seminar. We would also be happy to discuss this option at a local PD Board meeting if rquested. If you believe your county may be interested in exploring a regionalization option, please reach out to Commission staff. We would be happy to assist you in coordinating the process.

2019 Legislative Session Brings Mixed Results



Commission Receives Base Budget Increase

Since the Indiana General Assembly has the House Courts and Criminal Code to update you on the final status of the Commission's 2019 Legislative Priorities.

Commission's Base Budget:

The Commission's top priority each budget session is advocating for the budgetary increase necessary to account for any new counties, upticks in reimbursement requests for specific case types such as CHINS and TPR, and to avoid even the possibility of proration in the next biennium or beyond.

Commission Chair Mark Rutherford stressed the importance of this request in testimony before both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee.

We were very pleased the final version of the biennial state budget (HEA 1001) appropriated \$4.47 million more per year to the Public Defense Fund. This was the Commission's full request, and will allow us to avoid proration in the next biennium.

Misdemeanor & Appellate Funding:

At the request of the Commission, Commission Member & Representative John Young (District 47: Johnson & Morgan Counties) authored House Bill 1453 to remove the prohibition of misdemeanor reimbursement and to permit centralized appellate services. The state fiscal impact set for those two items by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency was \$10.27 million per year.

The bill was originally assigned to

adjourned for the 2019 legislative session, Committee, where it passed by a vote we would like to take an opportunity of 12-0 on January 30. The bill was coauthored by Reps Greg Steuerwald (District 40: Hendricks), Commission member Ryan Dvorak (District 8: LaPorte & St. Joseph) and Greg Porter (District 96: Marion). Unfortunately, although this issue did receive momentum and was stronglyconsidered or inclusion in the final version of the state budget, it was not included in the final version.

> More funding for misdemeanor reimbursement and appellate services remains a top fiscal priority for the Commission. We will continue to discuss this issues with policymakers

Regionalization & County **Board Structure:**

Senate Bill 488 created an optional path for counties to establish regionalized offices. It also changed the structures of some county boards to permit the Commission to make an appointment in lieu of one of the current judicial appointments. The legislation was authored by Sen. Mike Young (District 35: Hendricks & Marion) and co-authored by Commission Members and State Senators Eric Koch (District 44: Bartholomew, Brown, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe) and Greg Taylor (District 33: Marion). The bill passed the Senate 48-0 and passed the House 91-0. It was signed into law by Governor Eric Holcomb on April 24.

As always, we welcome any questions about our legislative agenda at any time and appreciate your support of our efforts.

Definition of Indigency to be Studied This **Summer**

Now that the legislative session has come to an end, the General Assembly will begin the process known as "Summer Study Committees." The Legislative Council (a joint House/Senate Committee composed primarily of members of legislative leadership) met to assign those topics. One topic of particular interest to the Commission has been assigned to the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code.

The Committee has been assigned a topic that reads, in part: "Court costs for indigent individuals..." It is based on Senate Resolution 52 (2019) that reads in part "Whereas, The term 'indigent individual' commonly refers to a person who is too poor to hire a lawyer and who, upon indictment, becomes eligible to receive aid from a court-appointed attorney and a waiver of court costs; Whereas, Current Indiana Criminal Code does not define the term 'indigent'; Whereas, It is unclear how Indiana courts are determining indigence when considering court costs."

Because the Commission sets standards on this subject matter and because any major changes could have a fiscal impact on the Commission, the Commission has approved staff to be involved in this issue over the interim. We will keep you updated on the status.

Commission to Begin Making Appointments to County Boards

With the change in law made by Senate Bill 488 in the recent legislative session, the Commission has begun the process of making appointments to local county public defense boards.

This change in law affects all counties except those specifically exempted by statute (Allen, Lake, Marion, St. Joseph, and Vanderburgh) and those counties with a population under 12,000 residents, which are not required to maintain a county board under Commission Standards.

The statute indicates that the Commission's appointment becomes effective upon the expiration of the first term of a current local judicial appointment. (A procedure for filing these vacancies was discussed at the last Commission meeting.) All Commission appointees must be a resident of the county in which they will serve. There is also a new list of specific statutory prohibitions on all appointments. The statute specifically excludes city, town, or county attorneys, law enforcement officers, judges, court employees, public defenders practicing in the county, or DCS employees from serving on the boards.

Commission staff will be seeking nominations from local leaders to fill these positions. In addition to having demonstrated a strong interest in public defense, an ideal candidate will be willing to advocate for local public defense services both at the county and state level.

Appointments will be made on a quarterly basis by the Commission. However, at the previous meeting, the Commission authorized an emergency procedure to fill vacancies between regularly-scheduled meetings. The Chair of the Commission has the discretion to declare a vacancy to be an emergency and appoint a subcommittee of the Chair and two additional Commission members.

If you have not responded to the Commission's recent communication requesting dates of original appointments and dates of terms for the current PD Board members in the non-exempt counties, please do so as soon as possible. Staff will be reching out to the appointing authorities of any counties where a response has not been received.

If you have any questions about this provision, please contact Andrew Cullen with the Commission at 317-439-7565 or Andrew.Cullen@pdcom.in.gov.

We hope to make this process fair and effective and welcome any input or nominations of qualified candidates.

June Commission Meeting Update

The Commission met on June 12 for its regular quarterly meeting and addressed a full agenda of items. Issues of note include:

FY 2020 Budget: The Commission approved an internal budget that continues to maintain a very low overhead for operation. Dropping from 3.14% to, 2.67%, this allows for 97.33% of all funding to be reserved for county reimbursement (excluding any reserves). The Commission maintains one of the lowest overhead operating percentages in Indiana State Government.

New Positions: The Commission granted authority to the Senior Staff Attorney to establish new job descriptions for a Staff Attorney and Public Policy/ Communications Specialist Position.

Update on pages 4 and 5") and also approved, to be effective January 1, that 90% of current Commission counties received an update on a joint project 2020 (Table 1). Based on Standard G, are in compliance with standards, an with the Indiana Department of Child these salaries must be identical to the improvement from 84% in the previous Services (DCS) regarding Federal Title salaries of prosecutors and chief deputy quarter. The status of the Public Defense IV Funding. Based on a new policy prosecutors, which go into effect July 1. Fund remains strong at this time, announced by the Children's Bureau, DCS may be able to seek federal reimbursement for a percentage of state and local costs for the representation of parents who have children who are foster-care eligible. This policy shift is new, and the federal government has not provided extensive guidance on how this reimbursement may work. Staff with the Commission is meeting regularly with staff from DCS to continue to explore this opportunity.

Communication/Guideline Updates: A request for public comments on compensation standards was approved (see "Commission Calls for Public Comments on Compensation Standard" on cover page), and the Commission received notice of a new federal grant to develop quality indicators (see to Develop Indiana-based Indicators of have until January 1, 2020 to be in pay parity. Quality Indigent Defense" on page 3). Fiscal Updates: The Commission have any additional questions, please do



Public Policy Updates: The In recognition for his final meeting as Vice Chair, the Commission awarded Larry Landis with a plaque of Commission received updates on the appreciation. Front Row: Judge Steven Meyer, Vice Chair Larry Landis, David Hensel, Chair Mark Rutherford; legislative session (see "Legislative back row: former Senator Richard Bray, Senator Eric Koch, Judge Mary Ellen Diekhoff, and Judge Kelsey

Position	Salary Eff. 7/1/2019
Prosecutor (1.0 Full-time Equivilant)	\$151,137.43
Prosecutor at .66 FTE	\$99,750.00
Prosecutor at .60 FTE	\$90,682.00
Chief Dep. Pros. (1.0 FTE)	\$113,353.07
Chief Dep. Pros. at .66 FTE	\$74,812.50
Chief Dep. Pros. at .60 FTE	\$68,011.50

"Commission/Council Launch Project Corresponding Chief and Chief Deputy Public Defenders Commission's website at: https://www.

New guidelines for the salaries of Chief approved all pending requests for Capital and Chief Deputy Public Defenders were and Non-Capital Caseloads. Staff reported

although it was necessary to dip into the reserve to cover the remaining FY 2019 expenses. However, with the additional appropriation secured in the recentlypassed state budget, staff reported that proration of county expenses is not anticipated at this time.

Chief Public Defender **Description**: The Commission reviewed an updated draft of a model job description for the position of Chief Public Defender. It was developed along with the Chief Public Defenders Association. This job description is intended to serve as a guideline. The Commission recognizes that each public defender office is unique. A copy of the job description may be found on the Commission's website.

As always, full minutes of each Table 1: Prosecutor salaries eff. 7/1/2019. meeting may be found on the in.gov/publicdefender/2343.htm. If you not hesitate to contact us.

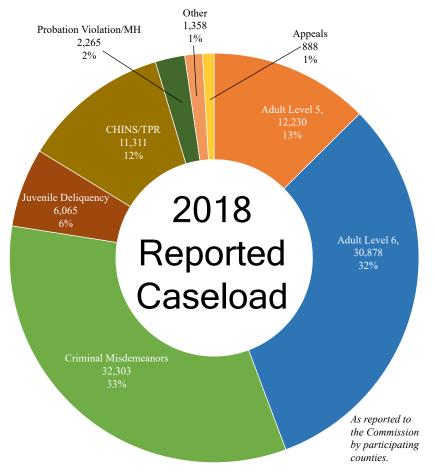
Commission Finalizes 2018 Caseload Statistics

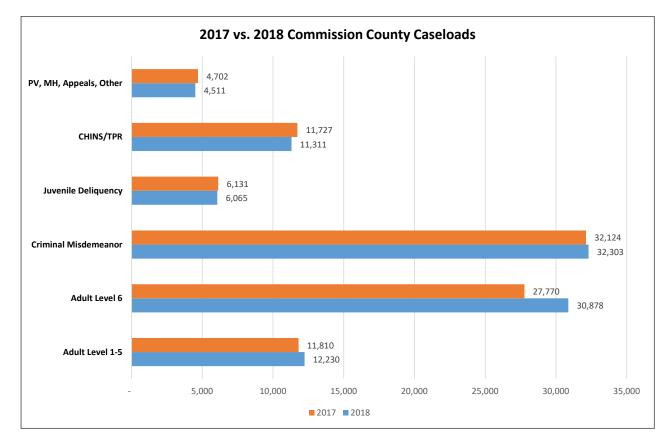
Every quarter, counties participating in the Commission's reimbursement program submit caseload statistics (Form III). These numbers are used to not only audit attorney workload compliance, but also to assist the Commission in the development of cost projections and monitor trends.

Between 2017 and 2018, overall caseload increased from 94,264 to 97,298. Although most case categories have increased in the number of cases, a portion of this increase is attributable to Brown, Clinton, Miami, and Scott Counties joining (or rejoining) the Commission. Removing the caseload associated with these counties allows a more accurate assessment of actual caseload trends.

Adult major felony (+1%), misdemeanors (-2%), and juvenile delinquency (-2%) caseloads are all relatively stable. CHINS and termination caseload has decreased significantly at -6%. Conversely, Level 6 Felonies (+8%), Probation/Mental Health (+5%), and Appeals (+8%) caseloads all increased significantly. Finally, the "Other" category shows a major decrease of -27%, but this category is highly variable, and is generally a quite small portion of reported caseload, so this difference should not be over-interpreted.

Keep in mind that these trends are a statewide average, and caseloads vary greatly across counties, so general trends will almost certainly not match any given county perfectly.





Commission Meeting Dates

September 25, 2019 December 18, 2019

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 2 pm. A brief executive session may precede each meeting. Meetings are scheduled to be held at our offices (309 W Washington Street, Suite 501, Indianapolis, IN 46204) Updates to meeting dates, times and locations are posted on our website: www.in.gov/ publicdefender

Reimbursement Requests

2nd Quarter 2019 due August 14, 2019 (remember to submit electronically!) 3rd Quarter 2019 due November 14, 2019





Join Our Team!

The Commission is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of staff attorney. The job summary is: Audits reimbursement requests and provides onsite trainings, investigates allegations of violations of Commission standards by defendants, assists staff with the collection and collation of observational and other data, and helps facilitate groups to develop and revise Commission Standards and Guidelines. Reports directly to the Senior Staff Attorney.

The full job description, including application requirements, is posted on the Commission's website. For further information about the position, please contact Derrick Mason at Derrick. Mason@pdcom.in.gov.

Electronic Submission of Quarterly Reports **Now Required**

At the June 12, 2019 meeting, the Commission voted to require the quarterly requests for reimbursement be submitted electronically (in Excel format).

Effective with the 2Q2019 submission (due August 14, 2019), Forms I-IV must be emailed in Excel file format to information@pdcom.in.gov. Additionally, the Commission voted to approve electronic signatures. Form V may now signed and scanned to us. Counties should maintain the orignal signatures on file. No hard copies should be mailed to us anymore!



Twitter: @IndianaPDCom LinkedIN: Indiana Public Defender Commission

This Commission has established Twitter and LinkedIN Accounts, which we use to keep followers up-to-date on the latest news about our efforts to empower counties to make good public defense choices. Please follow us and ask your colleagues to do so as well.

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