



**LENA C. TAYLOR**

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE ADVISORY:**  
June 22, 2018

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## **Senator Taylor Responds to Lenient Sentence Given to Serial Rapist**

(MADISON) – This morning Dane County Circuit Court Judge Stephen Ehlke sentenced former UW-Madison student Alec Cook to three years of incarceration for the sexual assault of 3 women and the choking or stalking of two others.

After hearing the news Senator Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) released the following comments:

“Three years is equal to roughly a seven month sentence for each of Cook’s victims, not to mention the twelve other dropped charges ranging from sexual assault to false imprisonment. What kind of a message are we sending to these women with this degree of leniency? He was eligible to be sentenced to forty years, the district attorney asked for nineteen, but the judge, for some reason, thought Cook was special.”

“Judge Ehlke let a serial rapist off the hook, plain and simple. The question we have to ask is: Why? Cook, who kept over twenty journals of detailed information on his would-be victims, got three years, but the same judge sentenced a sixteen year old African-American teenager, Adore Thomas, to twenty years in prison for the sexual assault of one woman. The disparity in sentencing in these cases is deeply troubling. I highly recommend that Judge Ehlke read The Sentencing Project’s report, *The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in State Prisons.*”