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State Bar of Wisconsin Executive Director Larry J. Martin's Statement on Announced Departure of Kelli Thompson as State Public Defender

Madison, WI – State Public Defender Kelli Thompson recently announced that she is stepping down from agency after 12 years of service, effective Oct. 9, 2023. Thompson, a 1996 graduate of Marquette University Law School, is a former chairperson of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors. State Bar of Wisconsin Executive Director Larry J. Martin has issued a statement about her departure.

"Kelli Thompson's departure is a real loss for the state, the public, and the legal community," Martin said. "Kelli departs on a high note, having helped lead a successful effort in significantly increasing state funding for our criminal justice system in the recently passed state budget.

"I am personally grateful for her dedicated and tireless service in helping work to ensure a commitment of access to justice for everyone in Wisconsin. Kelli is a great leader in our profession and our state, and I know she will be successful in her future endeavors."

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The State Bar of Wisconsin is an integrated professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 25,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit www.wisbar.org.