

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District Attorney David O'Leary
INITIATED BY

Public Safety & Justice Committee
SUBMITTED BY



David O'Leary &
Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen
DRAFTED BY

March 4, 2015
DATE DRAFTED

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PAY PROGRESSION
AND THE FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL PROSECUTORS**

1 **WHEREAS**, the LaFollette School of Public Affairs published a report in 2011 outlining the significant
2 turnover rate statewide of prosecutors due to low pay and no pay progression. The study showed many
3 prosecutors having minimal experience and once those prosecutors gain experience they leave, taking
4 with them the training and knowledge they have gained; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the Wisconsin Legislature addressed this issue by adopting a pay progression scale
7 for assistant district attorneys, which is codified in Wis. Stat. 230.12. This pay progression scale must be
8 funded biannually in the State budget; and,
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the 2011-2013 District Attorney Office Workload Analysis concluded that prosecutors
11 are in need of 138.75 FTE positions statewide and the Rock County District Attorney's Office is in
12 need of 2.99 FTE prosecutors. This combination leads to significant delays in prosecution for victims,
13 inefficiencies in prosecution, and backlogs in offices around the state, amongst other issues; and,
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin District Attorneys Association and the Rock County District Attorney
16 support funding from the state budget for pay progression and additional prosecutors to address this
17 significant need; and,
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) has recognized that
20 experienced prosecutors and adequate staffing in the District Attorney's Office is necessary to protect
21 public safety and ensure justice is achieved; and,
22

23 **WHEREAS**, in August 2014, the CJCC sent a letter of support to the Governor and Rock County's
24 Legislative Delegation to request that the District Attorney's Office in Rock County and District Attorney
25 Offices across the state are adequately staffed; and,
26

27 **WHEREAS**, this resolution reaffirms Rock County's support of assistant district attorney pay
28 progression and the funding of additional prosecutors; and,
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30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
31 this 26 day of March, 2015, does support the funding of pay progression for prosecutors, as
32 well and the creation and funding of additional assistant district attorney positions.
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34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Clerk be directed to send a copy of this
35 Resolution to the Governor, Rock County's Legislative Delegation, and the co-chairs of the Joint Finance
36 Committee.
37

15-3B-242

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PAY PROGRESSION
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Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Absent
Mary Beaver, Chair

Hank Brill
Hank Brill, Vice Chair

Terry Fell
Terry Fell

Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson

Larry Wiedenfeld
Larry Wiedenfeld

FISCAL NOTE:

No Fiscal Impact.

Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

Josh Smith
Josh Smith
County Administrator

Executive Summary

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PAY PROGRESSION AND THE FUNDING OF ADDITIONAL PROSECUTORS

The LaFollette School of Public Affairs published a report in 2011 outlining the significant turnover rate statewide of prosecutors due to low pay and no pay progression. The study showed many prosecutors having minimal experience and once those prosecutors gain experience they leave, taking with them the training and knowledge they have gained.

In 2014 the Wisconsin Legislature addressed this issue by adopting a pay progression scale for assistant district attorneys, which is codified in Wis. Stat. 230.12. This pay progression scale must be funded biannually in the State budget.

The 2011-2013 District Attorney Office Workload Analysis concluded that prosecutors are in need of 138.75 FTE positions statewide and the Rock County District Attorney's Office is in need of 2.99 FTE prosecutors. This combination leads to significant delays in prosecution for victims, inefficiencies in prosecution, and backlogs in offices around the state, amongst other issues.

The Wisconsin District Attorneys Association and the Rock County District Attorney support funding from the state budget for pay progression and additional prosecutors to address this significant need. Additionally, In August 2014, the Rock County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council sent a letter of support to the Governor and Rock County's Legislative Delegation to request that the District Attorney's Office in Rock County and District Attorney Offices across the state are adequately staffed.