



Wisconsin State Public Defender

Kelli S. Thompson
State Public Defender

17 S. Fairchild Street, Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608.266.0087/Fax: 608.267.0584
www.wisspd.org

Michael Tobin
Deputy State Public
Defender

*** PRESS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISSUED: February 9, 2017

CONTACT: Randy Kraft 608-267-3587 kraftr@opd.wi.gov

State Senate Confirms DeWitt Ross & Stevens' Attorney Joseph Miotke to the Public Defender Board

(Madison) On February 8, 2017, the State Senate voted unanimously to confirm Attorney Joseph Miotke of DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C. to serve on the Public Defender Board. Attorney Miotke was nominated to the post by Governor Scott Walker, and Miotke will serve a term ending May 1, 2018.

Attorney Miotke is a licensed patent attorney specializing in legal issues related to intellectual property and a member of DeWitt's Intellectual Property Group. He has been recognized by leading intellectual property publications as a top patent attorney in both Wisconsin and the United States. Attorney Miotke is very active in Wisconsin's entrepreneurship community and in the science, technology, engineering, and math ("STEM") education space. He leads one of the largest k-12 STEM programs in the United States through serving as the Statewide Leadership Chair for Project Lead The Way Wisconsin, which has over 500,000 participating Wisconsin Students. He also was appointed to serve on Marquette University's Research & Innovation Council, which provides guidance to Marquette University leadership on matters related to research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He earned his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Marquette University and graduated *magna cum laude* from Marquette University Law School.

Public Defender Board Chairperson, Attorney Daniel Berkos, added, "I congratulate Joe on his confirmation to the Public Defender Board. With Joe's experience and expertise, he will be a valuable member of the Board as we deliberate issues ranging from budget submittals to adequately compensating members of the private bar who accept agency appointments."

The nine-member Public Defender Board provides oversight of the State Public Defender's Office (SPD). The SPD is an independent, executive-branch state agency that ensures Wisconsin meets its constitutional obligations to provide legal representation to the indigent. Members of the Board serve as volunteers, without compensation.

###