

# LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD



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State Public Defender

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

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Contact: Jean M. Faria (225) 219-1158

BATON ROUGE – The Louisiana Public Defender Board acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of two retiring District Defenders. On July 9, 2010, Richard Howell, District Defender in the 20<sup>th</sup> JDC announced his resignation as District Defender for the East and West Feliciana Parishes. Effective September 1, 2010, District Defender David Balfour will resign as District Defender in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC, which includes Acadia, Lafayette and Vermillion Parishes.

Together, Mr. Howell and Mr. Balfour have served their clients and communities as public defenders for nearly 50 years. Mr. Howell was appointed District Defender in 2008, as part of the increased management and supervision at the local level that was created by the Public Defender Act of 2007. Mr. Balfour has served as the District Defender in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC for the previous eight years, since 2002.

Mr. Balfour said, "It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have held this position. Much of my success is attributable to the dedication and professionalism of my friends and colleagues in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC Public Defender's Office. Whoever replaces me will have the advantage of serving with 52 professional lawyers, a dedicated staff and an office in a sound and sustainable financial position."

Frank Neuner, Chairman of the Louisiana Public Defender Board said, "On behalf of the entire Board and staff of LPDB, we extend our thanks to Mr. Howell and Mr. Balfour for the service that they have provided indigent clients in the public defender system, and the cooperation that they have offered in these initial, critical years of implementation of the Public Defender Act of 2007."

LPDB has already begun the process to seek new leadership in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> JDC. In the interim, LPDB has appointed Rhonda Covington the Interim District Defender in the 20<sup>th</sup> JDC. Similarly, an Interim District Defender will be appointed in the 15<sup>th</sup> JDC if a suitable replacement is not in place by September 1, 2010.