



Bobby Jindal
Governor

Frank X. Neuner, Jr.
Chairman

Jean M. Faria
State Public Defender

EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL

PRESS STATEMENT

CLAY WALKER TO BECOME CADDO PARISH DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE SERVICES

Release Date: March 31, 2011

Contact: Jean M. Faria, (225) 219-9305

BATON ROUGE – H. Clay Walker, Deputy Public Defender – Director of Juvenile Defender Services, will resign from the on April 4, 2011, to become the Caddo Parish Director of Juvenile Services.

Mr. Walker had worked for the Louisiana Public Defender Board since June 16, 2008. He was Louisiana's first Director of Juvenile Defender Services, a position that was authorized by statute as part of the Louisiana Public Defender Act of 2007. This position, along with the position of Juvenile Justice Compliance Officer, reflect the Legislature's commitment to make meaningful and enduring improvements to Louisiana's juvenile justice system by involving defenders.

He says, "While it is difficult to leave the staff and unfinished work at LPDB, I am excited to able to focus on system-wide reforms across all criminal justice agencies and social service providers who are working to help our kids and strengthen our community in Caddo Parish."

Under Mr. Walker's leadership, LPDB developed and promulgated Performance Standards for Child in Need of Care (CINC) representation and developed Performance Standards for Delinquency Representation (promulgation pending). In addition, with the LPDB Director of Training, LPDB developed four regional trainings, an annual juvenile defender training institute and a training program that is specifically tailored to develop Louisiana's juvenile defenders.

Mr. Walker created a juvenile site visit protocol and met with juvenile defenders and defender-leaders in more than two-thirds of Louisiana districts. He also created infrastructure to cultivate a juvenile defender community. Through the Juvenile Defender Advisory Committee, juvenile-focused materials on the website, meaningful listservs for cross-district teaching and learning, and other programs, there is a single juvenile defender community in the state. This cohesion has raised the quality of representation for clients, optimized the use of limited resources, and raised defender satisfaction – all significant accomplishments for a three-year old agency.

Mr. Walker was the Louisiana Team Leader for Louisiana's participation as one of nine states in the Juvenile Indigent Defense Action Network (JIDAN). In this capacity, he supported the six Models for Change sites (a project of the MacArthur Foundation) and also worked with the five Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative sites (a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation).

State Public Defender Jean M. Faria said, "The Board and staff of LPDB share a commitment to the importance of juvenile defense and the specialized resources that juvenile defenders and clients require. We all thank Clay for his commitment to the cause, and look forward to working with him on collaborative projects that affect the Shreveport area. We will begin a national job search immediately to identify a new Director of Juvenile Defender Services to continue and expand this critical work."