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PRESS STATEMENT: LPDB Promulgates Performance Standards for Delinquency Representation

October 7, 2011 (BATON ROUGE) – On September 20, 2011, the Louisiana Public Defender Board (LPDB) promulgated *Trial Court Performance Standards for Attorneys Representing Juveniles in Delinquency Cases*.

The LPDB was created, in part, to develop uniform standards and guidelines for the delivery of public defender services and for an effective management system to monitor and enforce compliance with such standards and guidelines. In doing so, the LPDB protects the public, supports the criminal justice system and assures competent and effective representation for public defense clients. The performance standards for attorneys representing juveniles in delinquency cases were developed with input from juvenile defenders and defender leadership across Louisiana, and follow a best-practice model that has been adopted by numerous other states.

Professor D. Majeeda Snead of Loyola University New Orleans College of Law and a Louisiana Public Defender Board member said, “The promulgation of these performance standards is a critical step towards achieving Louisiana’s juvenile justice reform goals. All criminal and juvenile justice agencies have a role to play in expanding and improving juvenile services so that the state can fulfill its rehabilitative mandate. Codifying the standards of representation for juveniles allows public defenders and the Louisiana Public Defender Board to contribute to this effort.”

LPDB will provide no cost, standards-specific training to public defense attorneys across the state to promote the new standards, provide opportunities for skills development, and identify ongoing training and resource needs.

Since its creation in August 2007, the LPDB has promulgated two other sets of performance standards (*Trial Court Performance Standards in the Criminal Court* and *Trial Court Performance Standards for Attorneys Representing Parents in Child in Need of Care and Termination of Parental Rights Cases*) as well as the *Guidelines for Capital Defense Performance Standards for Appellate Representation* are currently being drafted for promulgation in 2012. All LPDB performance standards and guidelines may be found in the Louisiana Register <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/osr/reg/register.htm> or on the LPDB website at www.lpdb.la.gov