



# DANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**BRIAN W. BLANCHARD**  
District Attorney

**JUDY SCHWAEMLE**  
Deputy District Attorney  
Felony Unit

**TIMOTHY R. VERHOFF**  
Deputy District Attorney  
Criminal Traffic &  
Misdemeanor Unit

**MICHAEL S. WALSH**  
Deputy District Attorney  
Juvenile Unit

**ASSISTANT DISTRICT  
ATTORNEYS**

Donald C. Garber  
Miriam J. Rohrer  
Joseph E. Mimier  
Michael P. Finley  
Barbara N. Franks  
Kenneth M. Farmer  
Shelly J. Rusch  
Robert J. Kaiser  
Jonathon G. Kaiser  
Paul W. Humphrey  
Mary Ellen Karst  
Corey C. Stephan  
Karie D. Cattanaach  
Ragen A. Shapiro  
Brian S. Asmus  
Chris E. Freeman  
Andra L. Nollendorfs  
Michelle L. Viste  
Tim Kiefer  
Emily L. Thompson  
Lanny B. Glinberg  
Kenechukwu Okocha  
Gregory S. Venker  
Vanny Lu  
Iliana Castillo  
Andrea B. Raymond  
Paul L. Barnett  
Jessica A. Graham

**SUZANNE BEAUDOIN**  
Director  
Victim Witness Unit

**PATRICIA HRUBESKY**  
Director  
Deferred Prosecution Unit

**KATHY MCDERMOTT**  
Administrative Services  
Supervisor

May 14, 2010

Governor James E. Doyle  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Governor Doyle,

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
MAY 20 2010  
RECEIVED

I write respectfully to request your appointment of Timothy R. Verhoff, currently a Deputy District Attorney in the Dane County District Attorney's Office, to complete my remaining term. Those who depend on the daily work of the DA's Office need Tim Verhoff as its leader, and the general public deserves an appointment based entirely on merit and qualifications.

You have a rare vantage point from which to make this appointment, given your service as Dane County District Attorney and Wisconsin Attorney General. I know you are keenly aware of the ways in which good judgment and leadership by a district attorney can help promote a healthy and productive criminal justice system, and also of the ways in which a district attorney who is not prepared for his or her responsibilities can inadvertently damage a justice system, and thereby an entire community.

Tim Verhoff is ambitious in the right way. He wants to do the right thing as a prosecutor and public servant on every case and issue, and he is blessed with the intelligence, the organizational ability, and the good judgment to hit the target pretty much every time.

It would be difficult enough for Tim, who has superb people skills, unmatched knowledge of the Dane County criminal justice system, and an outstanding reputation as a highly compassionate and thoughtful prosecutor, to address the current challenges of the office. It is difficult for me to imagine an attorney who is less organized, less knowledgeable, or less diligent in leading the office in an effective manner under current circumstances. I am not aware of any attorney who comes close to matching Tim's qualifications for this position.

With the departure later this year of the latest in a series of senior prosecutors to reach retirement—veterans DDA Judy Schwaemle and ADA Don Garber—the average level of experience in the Dane County DA's Office will be at its lowest point in many years, even as the county's population growth and changing demographics continue to present significant challenges to the entire criminal justice system.

While still a relatively young man and highly energetic, Tim has a deep knowledge of the criminal law and criminal procedure (both in its fundamentals and as it has evolved with statutory and case law changes in recent years). He also has direct experience in introducing needed change into the complex criminal justice system. He is already handling with aplomb many of the demands, questions, and emergencies constantly presented to the managers of the DA's Office. We are fortunate that someone who is so well prepared to assist victims, police and other system partners, the courts, and defense attorneys and defendants is willing to serve in this capacity.

As an Assistant District Attorney since 2000 and a Deputy District Attorney since 2003, Tim has excelled in every aspect of the job: legal knowledge and skill; compassionate focus on the needs of victims; principled protection of the rights of accused persons, including the many unrepresented defendants in the criminal justice system; and efforts to improve the efficiency and quality of justice in the Dane County Courthouse. His excellence was recognized on a statewide level when he was named Wisconsin's Deputy District Attorney of the Year by the Wisconsin District Attorney's Association in 2007.

Tim's work has included both successfully trying the widest range of cases—from OWI cases to homicide cases—and also being a leader in the courthouse on such innovations as the highly productive OAR Court and the Court Settlement Conferences that are moving cases much more efficiently than was previously the case.

Tim's work on system improvements has been outstanding, resulting in fewer bench warrants, faster dispositions, and fewer delays in court hearings. I know that as District Attorney he would only build on these successes.

Because of his unselfish, good humored, and patient leadership of the Criminal Traffic and Misdemeanor Unit, the highest volume unit in the office, he has earned the deep respect of the entire courthouse community, and many of the victims, witnesses, and jurors who visit the courthouse.

In addition, Tim has been a leader of our Child Neglect initiative, taking many of these difficult cases and working collaboratively with system partners to encourage a thoughtful, comprehensive approach to child protection in cases in which the ability of children to thrive and grow is imperiled.

Tim's work since graduating from UW Law has also included a stint with a civil law firm, giving him extensive exposure to complex civil litigation to complement his broad knowledge of the criminal law.

Governor James E. Doyle  
May 14, 2010  
Page 3

On a personal level, I know Tim to be a devoted husband, father, athletics coach, and respected member of his local community. One of his many strengths is his ability to fill his life with valued pursuits outside the office, which makes him a well balanced and focused public servant when he arrives at work.

\* \* \*

Thank you for considering these observations. I believe that after you have reviewed the records of applicants, you will determine that you should appoint to this position the attorney who has spent a decade proving on a daily basis his ability to do a very difficult job as well as it can be done.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B. W. Blanchard".

Brian W. Blanchard