

# Press Release



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN  
*Leaders in the Law. Advocates for Justice.®*

## Judge Chad Hendee's support for second chances earns statewide recognition

MADISON, Wis. (April 21, 2025) -- For Judge Chad Hendee of the Marquette County Circuit Court, justice doesn't end with a gavel—it begins with giving people a second chance. By helping treatment court participants secure housing, rebuild their lives, and stay connected to a supportive community, Judge Hendee has become a model of compassion-driven justice.

In recognition of his leadership, the [State Bar of Wisconsin Bench Bar Committee](#) has named him **Judge of the Year**.

Judge Hendee's work goes far beyond the courtroom. He organizes bowling nights and other community events, helps participants find housing at reduced rents, and works closely with local law enforcement to build a long-term support network for graduates. His hands-on, people-first approach has earned attention across Wisconsin as a model for community-driven recovery and reintegration.

"Judge Hendee looks at the person and not just the offense," wrote Marquette County Administrator Ron Barger in his nomination. "He has enabled many graduates of the program to re-enter society and remain productive citizens. During his time overseeing the program, he has expanded it to include securing housing for members going through the program as well as adding staff that assist individuals with treatment and support."

The **Judge of the Year Award** honors a circuit court judge who improves the judicial system through leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education, or innovative programming. The State Bar's Bench and Bar Committee established the award to recognize judges who drive real, lasting improvements within the justice system.

# # #



Marquette County Circuit Court Judge Chad Hendee receives the 2025 Judge of the Year Award for his hands-on approach to justice, supporting treatment court participants through housing, community events, and a strong support network. (Photo courtesy of the State Bar of Wisconsin.)

### ABOUT THE BENCH BAR COMMITTEE

The Bench Bar Committee of the State Bar of Wisconsin fosters collaboration between lawyers and judges on issues and trends affecting the administration of justice. By promoting communication and collegial interaction, the committee strengthens cooperation and understanding between the bench and the bar.

### ABOUT THE STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the integrated professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 25,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit [wisbar.org](https://wisbar.org).

### ATTACHED PHOTO

Marquette County Circuit Court Judge Chad Hendee, the recipient of the 2025 State Bar of Wisconsin Judge of the Year Award.

### CONTACT

Mike Wiltse, PR Manager, 608-250-6025

