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**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: January 17, 2014**

**Subject: Appointment of Federal Public Defender  
District of Kansas**

Denver, CO -- On Friday, January 17, 2014, the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit appointed Melody Brannon Evans as the Federal Public Defender for the District of Kansas.

Ms. Evans has served her entire career providing indigent defense. Ms. Evans earned her undergraduate degree at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma and her law degree at the University of Oklahoma. After graduating law school, she became an assistant public defender in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Later she specialized in capital defense in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas before joining the Federal Public Defender for the District of Kansas in 1998. Most recently, she served as First Assistant Federal Public Defender until she was appointed the Interim Federal Public Defender in September 2013.

The Honorable Julie A. Robinson, U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas, administered the oath to Ms. Evans on January 17, after which Ms. Evans officially assumed the duties of the office of the Federal Public Defender. The Federal Public Defender has offices in Topeka, Kansas City and Wichita. Ms. Evans will be based out of Topeka.

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The Criminal Justice Act of the United States requires every federal District Court to develop a plan for furnishing legal representation to indigent defendants. By federal statute, Federal Public Defenders are appointed by the judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the federal judicial circuit in which the particular district is located. The Tenth Circuit, with administrative headquarters in Denver, Colorado, encompasses the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, and Wyoming.

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