



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Howard Named Chief Public Defender**

Lora Howard has been named Chief Public Defender for the Tulsa County Public Defender's Office. Howard joined the Tulsa County Public Defender's Office in April of 2008 and has been serving as the Interim Chief Public Defender since the departure of Corbin Brewster in June.

"I am honored to lead the Tulsa County Public Defender's Office," Howard stated. "We have an outstanding group of attorneys who are dedicated to our mission of providing excellent legal representation to every person we serve in Tulsa County through vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy."

District Judge Doug Drummond added, "Lora will be an outstanding leader for the Public Defender's office. She is a skilled attorney and a passionate advocate who will be successful in what is one of the most demanding jobs in our criminal justice system."

The Chief Public Defender is responsible for administration and oversight of the Tulsa County Public Defender's Office, including supervising the activities of attorneys, support staff, investigators, and interns to ensure that clients of the Public Defender's Office are provided with effective legal representation. This representation includes providing criminal defense to indigent clients charged with misdemeanors and felonies from the time of appointment up through and including jury trial. Additionally, the Office provides representation to children in certain family, adoption and guardianship cases as well as representing juveniles charged with delinquent offenses and children in juvenile deprived cases.

Howard spent several years in the Criminal Division, and later the Civil Division, where she represented children in adoption, guardianship, and high-conflict divorce cases. In 2017, Howard was named Supervising Attorney for the Criminal and Civil Divisions, a role she held until July 2021 when she was named Deputy Chief Public Defender.

Howard graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 2002 and received her Juris Doctor in 2006. While an undergraduate student, Howard was a member of the OU Honors College and received the Puterbaugh Fellowship.

Glen Blake has been named as Deputy Chief Public Defender, taking over the role previously held by Howard.

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