



# DANE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ISMAEL R. OZANNE



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **DA's Response And Support Of The Need For Adequate Resources In The Criminal Justice System**

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A recent article said that I did not respond to a request to comment on the need for increased prosecutor positions in District Attorneys' offices throughout Wisconsin. This may have shocked some people, as I do not believe I have missed any opportunity in the past to educate the public and Wisconsin's elected officials on the need for more prosecutors. As an Assistant District Attorney for, and as District Attorney of the second largest and fastest growing county in Wisconsin, I have consistently advocated for the state to devote adequate resources to public safety in the form of more prosecutors and appropriate compensation for those prosecutors. This is not only a Dane County issue, because this need exists in the majority of Wisconsin's 71 District Attorneys' Offices.

Every prosecutor in Wisconsin takes an oath to uphold the state and federal constitutions. Fundamentally, this obligates prosecutors to seek the truth and to seek justice for victims, the public, and defendants. Justice is not achieved through efficiency or expediency, or by looking the other way when crime happens. It is achieved by careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of each criminal case. Without adequate numbers of prosecutors, or prosecutors who can financially afford to make prosecution a long term commitment, we are asking every District Attorney in Wisconsin not only to do "more with less" (they are already doing that and have been doing so for years) but to increasingly do less with less: a lesser number of prosecutors, with lesser experience, less able to do justice in more cases that are more complex.

Forcing prosecutors to use less time to exercise the judgment, discretion, and wisdom that we want to be at the heart of each prosecutorial decision does no one any good. It does not result in victims feeling that they are being treated with the dignity and respect they are due. It does not result in police officers feeling that the work they do to keep communities safe will result in just outcomes. It does not result in defendants feeling that their cases are being handled in something other than an assembly line process of justice. Fundamentally, the current system of funding prosecutors deprives the public as a whole of swift, effective, and appropriate justice.

Rest assured that I and my colleagues will seek justice for you. We will fight for you. But we will also tell you the truth: Wisconsin, we can do better. So, if you live in Dane County, Douglas County, Florence County, Kenosha County, Grant County, or any county in between, I urge you to reach out to your legislators and tell them you stand with me and the Attorney General, and that you stand for justice.