



For Immediate Release
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Statement of John Kerry On Public Defenders

Washington, DC – John Kerry today released the following statement on public defenders:

“I’ve always respected public defenders and the important work they do. The Constitution’s Sixth Amendment guarantee of the right to counsel is part of what makes America’s criminal justice system fair and effective. As the Supreme Court held over 40 years ago, in the landmark case of Gideon v. Wainwright:

‘The right of one charged with crime to counsel may not be deemed fundamental and essential to fair trials in some countries, but it is in ours. (372 U.S. 335, at 344).’

“I am grateful for the role that public defenders play, along with police officers, judges, prosecutors and juries, in helping our nation live up to its noble ideals and in providing justice for all.”

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