Outrage and Disappointment Mark Community Response To Calumet County DA

Madison, WI September 16 – “The DA’s actions contradict his duties as a representative of the State to treat victims of sexual violence and domestic abuse with dignity, respect, and courtesy” stated Jeanie Kurka Reimer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA), responding to reports that broke yesterday about the Calumet County District Attorney, Ken Kratz.

WCASA is a statewide coalition incorporated in 1985 to support and complement the work of Wisconsin’s community-based sexual assault service providers (SASP's) and other organizations working to end sexual violence.

“Sexual assault and domestic violence all too often go unreported,” explained Ms. Kurka Reimer. “Survivors who demonstrate bravery and come forward to report these crimes need a coordinated community response that is victim-centered; the criminal justice system needs to be a trusted and safe partner in this process.

“Mr. Kratz’s behavior took advantage of the vulnerability of a victim. Further, his reticence to come to grips with the seriousness of his actions – which violated the victim’s trust and could have harmed the prosecution of her abuser – demonstrate the need for more education about the many facets of violence intervention and prevention at all levels of our community, including our elected officials.”

When asked, Ms. Kurka Reimer would not speculate on what disciplinary action toward the District Attorney may or may not be appropriate. “However,” she added, “regardless, in 2012 the community will get an opportunity to respond.”