

For Immediate Release
January 3, 2023
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Arabia Appointed to Lead State Public Defender's Office

Carson City, NV – The Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Christopher Arabia as the new head of the Nevada State Public Defender's Office (NSPD). The appointment, on December 30, 2022, follows the retirement of Karin Kreizenbeck.

The Office of the State Public Defender was created by the Nevada Legislature in 1971. Most recently, in 2019, it was placed under the auspices of the newly minted Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS). DIDS was created in 2019 by Assembly Bill 81 to oversee, support, and provide state resources to indigent defense providers (public defenders) throughout the state, primarily in the rural counties.

"I am delighted to be here and am looking forward to ensuring all Nevadans have appropriate representation," Arabia says. Arabia is committed to improving indigent defense and working with DIDS in its continued efforts to support rural communities across Nevada. As a result of its work with county management, the judiciary, and local attorneys to build stronger and more resilient indigent defense systems across the state, in the last fiscal year DIDS was able to reimburse eight rural Nevada counties a total of \$1,824,877.92 in indigent defense costs. Arabia's extensive work in Nevada's rural counties will be a valuable asset in building on this success.

Arabia has a diverse background, having worked as both a public defender and a prosecutor. He received his Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law in 1995 and has been licensed in Nevada since 2006. Over the past decade and a half, Arabia has served as the Esmeralda County Public Defender, Northern Nye County Public Defender, and most recently as District Attorney in Nye County.

Arabia will be the first appointment to the position of State Public Defender since the creation of DIDS. His insight from having worked in leadership roles on both sides of the aisle, allows him to bring a unique perspective to the position.

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