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**Contact:**  
Anne Brandt, Marketing Director  
Valparaiso University Law School  
Anne.brandt@valpo.edu

**VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL TO HOST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE (NAPD) LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

*Valparaiso, Indiana, March 2, 2016* - On March 6-9, 2016, Valparaiso University Law School and the National Association for Public Defense (NAPD), will host 135 public defender leaders, managers and supervisors from around the country for a three-day leadership institute. This is the second NAPD event to be held at Valparaiso University Law School; last June NAPD held its Executive Leadership Institute for heads of public defender agencies.

NAPD is an inclusive community of public defenders and public defense professionals who are focused exclusively on public defense issues. Its nearly 13,000 members include the full range of public defense professionals and represent all 50 states and US Territories. One of NAPD's strategic goals over the next five years is to become the primary trainer of public defense leaders, who face unique challenges and often find themselves isolated from their colleagues across the country.

The Leadership Institute will train mid-level managers from more than 75 jurisdictions, with leaders from 26 states and seven federal districts. Registrants reflect a diversity of professions, including attorneys, investigators, social workers and administrative leaders. Attendees will apply training skills to local leadership challenges during intensive small group work throughout the training. The Institute focuses on core skills of communication, coaching, case review, team performance, time management and recruiting/retaining best practices to support effective, client-centered management.

"At a time when the issue of criminal justice is such a large part of the national conversation, we are pleased to partner with NAPD to try to address the needs of the indigent accused and their advocates," said Valparaiso University Law School Dean, Andrea Lyon.

Breakout topics will track NAPD's primary organizing projects: ending excessive workloads; challenging predatory fines and fees; resourcing juvenile defense; and promoting holistic defense programs. Kristina Swickard, a social work supervisor who has worked for the Salt Lake Legal Defender's Association for more than 20 years said, "LDA started with only one social worker in a one-year pilot. Now I have a 10-person division tackling increasingly

complex legal cases and addressing a far broader range of socio-economic issues. This Institute will help my entire division support our attorneys and our clients more effectively.”

An extremely qualified group of faculty are coming from Maryland, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, New York, Alabama, Colorado, Tennessee, California, Oregon and Pennsylvania. Amy Campanelli, a career-long public defender and head of the Cook County Public Defender’s Office in Chicago, will be coaching at the Institute and said, “This type of training is essential. Good advocates get promoted because they are good at fighting for their clients, but supervising staff and implementing a vision as a leader requires many new skills. I’m excited to train with so many impressive colleagues and bring a national group of client-centered managers together to advance the defense movement as a community.”

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### **ABOUT VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL**

Founded in 1879, Valparaiso University Law School is the 38th oldest American Bar Association (ABA) accredited law school in the United States. A Midwestern school committed to diversity and service, Valparaiso University Law School attracts students and faculty with broadly different backgrounds and perspectives. They are natural leaders who are called to the law to help people and serve society as a whole. Valparaiso Law established its legal clinic in 1967, and was among the first law schools to serve the public through legal clinics that provide low-cost or no-cost representation by licensed law students. This commitment to practical education is reflected in an innovative new curriculum, introduced in 2013, that supports a broad range of career options within the legal profession.