



**J. HANLEY**

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

**PRESS RELEASE**

**April 3, 2026**

**State's Attorney J. Hanley**

Winnebago County State's Attorney J. Hanley is pleased to announce the hiring of Ashley Kohanyi, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, to provide on-site counseling to staff.

Ashley Kohanyi has 18 years of experience and specializes in vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, burnout and secondary traumatic stress. Kohanyi has previous experience working as a therapist for the Greg Lindmark Foundation and Lighthouse Counseling of Rockford.

Kohanyi will offer free mental health counseling, resources, and education, designed to understand and support those experiencing trauma. Research and several studies have shown that lawyers are particularly vulnerable to burnout and stress, and as a professional group they are at a high risk for depression, substance abuse, and suicide. Often, it's linked to secondary trauma, which is defined as, the emotional duress that results when an individual hears about the firsthand trauma experiences of another. Symptoms of secondary trauma mimic those of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The cumulative effect of repeated exposure to trauma can impact staff in numerous ways and ultimately erode their overall well-being. Our goal is to remove the barriers staff have to seeking help they need.

As part of her role in the office, Kohanyi will meet with employees at the office. She will work with them to identify their needs, provide mental health treatment, and coordinate any off-site support services for staff.

**State's Attorney Hanley and Ms. Kohanyi will be available for interviews with media from 11:15am to Noon on today, April 3, 2026.**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

J. Hanley, Winnebago County State's Attorney  
815-319-4700