

Jennifer Harjo

Jennifer Harjo is the Chief Public Defender for New Hanover County and has served in that capacity since she opened the Public Defender Office in 2008. Her appreciation for criminal law began in the Public Defender Office in Tulsa, Oklahoma where she was employed while attending the University of Tulsa College of Law. After law school, Jennifer was offered a position with the Suffolk County District Attorney in Boston, Massachusetts where she tried many criminal cases. In 1995, Jennifer joined the firm of Smith, Smith and Harjo where she continued representing indigent clients, in conjunction with her family and civil law practice.

Jennifer is enrolled with the Muskogee Creek Nation and is a member of St. Mary Basilica Catholic Church in Wilmington, NC. When not working, she enjoys time at the beach with her husband, family and canine companions.