Dirks-Linhorst looks at different angles of the law

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Friday, August 31, 2012 — www.theintelligencer.com

While the law is something that we all deal with, its interpretation is always a source of controversy. Someone who stud-
ed "South of the Border" on St. Louis’ airwaves, Sumi Dirks-Linhorst, an associate professor in the department of sociology and crim-
nal justice at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, was riled up.

Born in Kansas City, Mo., she obtained her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and her doctorate in criminology, also at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

After working as a trial lawyer for a while, she moved to a state agency where she found herself, "doing all of their train-
ing and designing all of their curricula for their adult basic education classes, their college adult basic education classes. I happened to work for a department of mental health. I thought really this was desecrating me down a little bit different path because I'm used to being a trial lawyer, and I don't really know what is this degree, she said.

According to her experience for the Missouri Department of Mental Health, she said, "there is a lot of controversy about how it differentiates between common criminals and mental patients, but we were very happy about20 something20s offering an insanity defense, '" Dirks-Linhorst explained.

Under mental defense says that a person is not responsible for criminal conduct by reason of mental disease or defect at the time of the crime. He put me on a lot of misperceptions, " she said. "I think the public believes that this is all the time. In fact, the insanity defense is only attempted in one half of all criminal trials, and it is successfully about 25 percent of the time.

She said that she thinks that the case of John Hinckley (who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan) created a lot of misperceptions about the insanity defense, but as the.