



WSBA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mark A. Johnson
President

phone: 206-386-5566
e-mail: mark@johnsonflora.com

April 29, 2009

Justice Charles Johnson
Washington Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Suggested Changes to CrR 3.1(d)(4) and JuCr 9.2 (d)

Dear Justice Johnson:

The Washington State Bar Association supports the suggested changes to CrR 3.1(d)(4) and JuCr 9.2(d) published for comment by the Supreme Court.

The WSBA's support of public defense resulted in the WSBA establishing, in 2003, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense. The Panel, which issued its report in May of 2004, subsequently was renamed the Committee on Public Defense and later, the Council on Public Defense. Among the Committee's charges was updating the Standards for Indigent Defense Services, which were originally adopted by the WSBA Board of Governors in 1990. In 2007, the Board of Governors adopted the updated Standards as recommended by the Committee.

The Board believes that the suggested amendments to CrR 3.1(d)(4) and JuCr 9.2(d) would further improve the quality of public defense and increase confidence in the criminal justice system by reducing appeals and retrials due to ineffective assistance of counsel claims.

As it relates to indigent defense, judges are uniquely qualified to assess whether appointed counsel possesses the minimum qualifications to provide effective assistance in a specific case in accordance with the WSBA's Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Johnson".

Mark Johnson

Working Together to Champion Justice

2505 Second Avenue, Suite 500 / Seattle, WA 98121 • / fax: 206-682-0675

Faulk, Camilla

From: Margaret Shane [Margarets@wsba.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 1:31 PM
To: Camilla.Faulk@courts.wa.gov.
Cc: Mark Johnson; Paula Littlewood
Subject: Correspondence re CrR 3.1(d)(4) and JuCr 9.2(d)
Attachments: 04-29-09 to Justice Johnson re CrR 3.1.doc

Good afternoon -

Attached to this email is a letter addressed to Justice Charles Johnson regarding the suggested changes to CrR 3.1(d)(4) and JuCr 9.2(d). A hard copy has also been put in the mail today to Justice Johnson.

If you need anything further or have any questions, please let me know.

Margaret Shane | Executive Assistant
Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: 206.727.8244 | Fax 206.727.8310
margarets@wsba.org | www.wsba.org