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

Re: Comments on Proposed Amendments to CrR 3.1(d) and CrRLJ 3.1(d)(4), and JuCR 9.2(d)

Dear Justice Johnson,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Defender Association (WDA) to express our appreciation and strong support of a rule assuring that appointed counsel possess the skill and resources necessary to represent indigent criminal defendants. We further agree that this determination is a judicial function, and that Washington's "Standards for Indigent Defense Services" articulate the appropriate factors.

However, WDA asks that the proposed amendments to CrR 3.1(d) and CrRLJ 3.1(d)(4), and JuCR 9.2(d) not be adopted in their present form and requests instead that the court further consider and refine the rules. The recent Washington State Supreme Court decision in *State v. A.N.J.* and U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky* necessitate a new analysis of the appropriate court rules governing appointment of public defense counsel. We endorse the comments submitted by the Washington State Bar Association and the Washington State Office of Public Defense and offer to assist in collaborative efforts to draft new court rules.

We strongly urge that the court delay adoption of the proposed court rules. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

 Christie Hedman

Christie Hedman
Executive Director