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October 1, 2014

The Honorable Justice Charles W. Johnson
Washington Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 929
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Comment on Proposed Amendments to Standards for Indigent Defense

Dear Justice Johnson:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Court's proposed amendments to Standards for Indigent Defense 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6.

Over the past several years, as the agency has worked with local jurisdictions and public defense attorneys to implement the Supreme Court's Standards for Indigent Defense, OPD has observed inconsistent interpretations of these particular standards. The proposed amendments provide the clarification necessary to establish consistent and appropriate practices among the various jurisdictions, and to ensure effective assistance of counsel for indigent clients.

OPD supports adoption of the proposed amendments as published.

Sincerely,

Joanne Moore
Director

JM/msy