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Subject: FW: Caseloads for Public Defenders
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:39:48 AM

From: Alexandra de Peyster <adepeyster@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:13 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Caseloads for Public Defenders

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Dear Justices of the Washington Supreme Court,

As a Seattle resident, I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed amendment to the court rule governing public defense caseloads, which would adopt Washington State Bar Association standards to reduce caseloads for public defenders.

As it stands, public defenders are allotted an average of 12 hours per felony case—far too little time to ensure adequate legal representation. This severe imbalance puts both defenders and their clients in an untenable position, compromising the quality of defense and straining the constitutional rights of those they represent.

By reducing caseloads, this change would not only improve the ability of public defenders to provide effective counsel, but also enhance access to mental health and addiction services for clients, reduce recidivism, and improve outcomes for the broader criminal justice system.

I urge you to support this reform and bring our state closer to fulfilling the constitutional promise of a fair and adequate defense for all individuals.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Sincerely,

Alex de Peyster

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