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**Subject:** FW: Support for the Public Defender Workload Standards  
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**From:** Alexandra Manno <amanno@snocopda.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:26 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for the Public Defender Workload Standards

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Dear Honorable Justices,

I strongly support the adoption of the Indigent Defense Standards as proposed by the WSBA, including the implementation timeline.

I've wanted to be a public defender almost all my life. It was and continues to be my dream job. Except, it is truly impossible to be the lawyer I want to be under the current standards. There is not enough time to provide effective representation for the number of clients we currently have. I am a good lawyer and I care about my clients, but I sadly can't do my job the way I want to and the way my clients deserve.

It's not fair to people that are charged with crimes, some of whom are facing being separated from their families and spending the rest of their lives in prison. It's also not fair to public defenders or their families.

I've been working at my office for over 8 years with the plan to be there until I retire. But to do our job well, it requires much more time than 40 hours a week. It requires me staying at the office some nights until midnight. It requires working on weekends. It requires around the clock time and attention for the clients that need it the most. Even then, I am constantly feeling anxious and guilty about everything I should be doing for my clients but can't. Three years ago, my daughter was born and I'm expecting another baby in April. My family has repeatedly had discussions on whether my job as a public defender is sustainable because there is too much to do and simply not enough time.

When I heard about the new caseload standards, I cried with joy because there was hope that I could continue doing my job while also raising a family. Please don't take that hope away.

Thank you,  
Alexandra Manno

**Alexandra Manno** (she/her)

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