

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for the proposed standards for indigent defense  
**Date:** Friday, September 20, 2024 8:32:40 AM

---

---

**From:** Willard, Alix <AWillard@kingcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2024 8:26 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for the proposed standards for indigent defense

**External Email Warning!** This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

Honorable Justices,

I'm writing to express my support for the proposed standards for indigent defense.

I know you've been hearing a lot from people who don't want you to approve these standards. Those people are largely misguided. The job of public defense is not to get violent criminals released to the streets where they can harm more people. The job of public defense is to ensure that the government is being fair. Above all things, this is a nation founded on those ideals. When the Supreme Court determined in Gideon vs Wainwright that all people deserved an attorney when facing a loss of civil liberties, that was premised on the notion that the only way to be certain that the government has met their burden of proof was to have representation for the defense as well.

Since then, there have been more and more decisions that describe what public defense needs to look like, again to ensure that criminal defendants without financial resources are able to hold the government to the same burden that wealthy defendants are able to.

The proposed standards did not come to you quickly. Some have tried to argue that we need more studies to prove that these proposed standards are really necessary. But the studies have already been done. These proposals come from a vast and comprehensive study already completed and followed by more than a year of committees working on interpretation of that study's results. The proposals are not overbroad, but are a true representation of how much time it genuinely takes to fulfill those tasks. The current standard hasn't been updated in decades. It does not reflect the complexity of the cases now before us.

The proposed standards will require increased staffing, which does indeed come with increased expense to pay for that staffing, however we cannot let the expense of upholding the constitution be a reason not to do so.

Thank you for taking the time to read all the comments you are receiving. I know you will you make the right choice.

Alix

Alix Willard, MSW

Associated Counsel for the Accused Division

Department of Public Defense

420 W Harrison St, Ste 201

Kent, WA 98032

206-263-0773 (office)

206-445-8184 (cell)

253-520-6635 (fax)

She/Her/Hers