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Subject: FW: proposed changes to standards of indigent defense
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From: McPeek, Alison <AMcPeek@spokanecounty.org>
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Subject: proposed changes to standards of indigent defense

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Supreme Court Rules Committee:

I write this note to add my name to the ever- growing list of Public Defenders who support the proposed changes to the indigent defense standards. Having worked as an Assistant Public Defender in Spokane County for over twenty years I can personally attest to the soul crushing load placed upon Public Defenders not only in Spokane but throughout the State. We are losing competent and experienced attorneys in droves due to the unmanageable caseloads we are expected to carry. This has resulted in a lack of sufficient training for young attorneys and a workload that is all consuming. A work/life balance is unattainable. Cases are not able to be heard in a timely manner because of the lack of available and sufficiently trained attorneys to handle those cases. The current system is ripe for error which only makes it more costly on the back end when dealing with appellate issues that arise from those errors. Most importantly, the current system is unjust to the people we are tasked with defending who languish in custody, lives on hold waiting for their cases to be heard.

Alison McPeek
Assistant Public Defender
Counsel for Defense