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Subject: FW: Case Standards
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From: Melendez, Andrew <amelendez@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:02 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Case Standards

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Dear Supreme Court,

I am a public defender and must keep this brief, but please do not go back on the new case standards. We really are trying our best, but are simply in a position where all rungs of public defense from ITA to felony are just getting smoked. These new case standards are our best shot at being able to give adequate counsel to people. Some of the emails from the other side are telling. There are several that discuss safety. This gives away the game as they believe that giving constitutionally required defenders that can defend would lower safety because people can be adequately defended. I encourage you to ignore those emails as they show that lessening defendants' rights is their entire aim. As for those that discuss money, they are honest but I must point out that cost of administration was one of the top state arguments against *Gideon*. Fortunately, SCOTUS did not listen to those concerns then, I ask that you ignore them now and make the Executive get creative to solve problems.

Best,
Andrew Meléndez
TDA