

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelyn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: New Rules for Defense Attorneys per the Washington State Bar Association  
**Date:** Monday, August 5, 2024 8:03:52 AM

---

---

**From:** barkuehne@gmail.com <barkuehne@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2024 5:35 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** New Rules for Defense Attorneys per the Washington State Bar Association

**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.

To the Washington State Supreme Court:

I am writing to comment on the new rules proposed by the Washington State Bar Association for defense attorneys for indigent people that were recently filed with the court for consideration. Due to the current shortage of defense attorneys in this state, the proposed rules include a reduction in the caseload for these attorneys based on a credit system assigned to various crimes.

I believe this is the wrong answer to the problem of the shortage of defense attorneys. It is obvious that positions are not being filled because the salaries are too low. If the salaries are increased, there will be more people applying for this important position and more ability to cope with the caseload.

Reduction of caseloads won't fix the problem. It will result in violent criminals not being prosecuted to comply with an artificially determined caseload system. There will also be a multitude of criminals committing property crimes who are allowed to go free.

You may say that there is no problem with allowing those who commit property crimes to be released without being charged and going through the courts. Would you say this to an elderly person whose only car is stolen by a thief? That person cannot replace the car because they are on a fixed income. What about businesses whose windows are broken, and interiors destroyed? That will cost the businesses an exorbitant amount of money and time. The result of dropping these crimes will be that businesses will move out of this state.

Please consider these issues and reject the WSBA's recommendations. The court is here to judge cases for the people of the State of Washington, not the Bar Association. There is no reason that the salaries of defense attorneys cannot be raised so that they can be recruited. If this happens, the courts will be able to handle the caseload adequately and the people of Washington State will benefit from criminals going through the court system instead of their cases being dropped.

Thank you,

Barbara Kuehne  
32200 Military Rd S Apt R102

Federal Way, WA 98001