

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Support for WSBA Revised Caseload Standards
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 8:04:17 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-tpc4o13b.png](#)
[Outlook-Image resu.png](#)

From: Brittney Miller <brittney.miller@co.thurston.wa.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 5:49 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for WSBA Revised Caseload Standards

You don't often get email from brittney.miller@co.thurston.wa.us. [Learn why this is important](#)
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.

October 30, 2024

Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

To: Supreme Court Justices

Before I joined Thurston County Public Defense as a Paralegal, I worked as a clerk for TC District Court for 8 years. Over the years, I have seen the public defense misdemeanor attorney team go through at least 36 attorneys. Seven of these remain in some capacity as public defenders, but only one remains on the misdemeanor team. In the last 6 months, 5 attorneys have left my team. Many of the attorneys who have left have directly cited caseloads as the reason for leaving. They have found better paying, less stressful jobs in other areas. When I have seen these folks more recently after they've left the office, I've noticed how much better their mental health is and how much happier they are with the amount of time they get to spend with their families.

Public defense work attracts people who are passionate, caring, and are willing to do this work for less than they can get paid else where, but they can only do this job for so long before they are burnt out and ground down. I am tired of telling our clients that their attorneys have left. Some of our clients have been reassigned attorneys multiple times in the last few months.

When I hear arguments that local governments cannot afford for these standards to be enforced, I have little sympathy. The right of indigent people to have effective counsel should not be determined by what counties or cities can or cannot afford. I am also not swayed by the argument that there are no attorneys to hire. Three of the five attorneys who have left my office recently have told me specifically that if caseload standards changed, they would be back in a second.

These caseload standards are way overdue and sorely needed. Please send help.

Thank you,

Brittney Miller (she/her)

Paralegal 1 -Thurston County Public Defense

926 24th Way SW Olympia, WA 98502

OFFICE 360.754.4897 | FAX 360.754.4469 | CELL 360.463.6097

<http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/pd>



Our Mission: "To defend and protect our clients' constitutional rights, one person at a time."

This message may contain information that is protected by the attorney-client and/or work product privilege. If this message was sent to you in error, any use, disclosure or distribution of its contents is prohibited. If you receive this message in error, please contact me at the telephone number or e-mail address listed above and delete this message without printing, copying, or forwarding it.