

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Indigent Defense Standards
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:34:01 AM

From: Catherine Houser <catherine@titushallssellers.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2024 10:32 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Indigent Defense Standards

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.

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the new defense standards. I practice as a public defender in Douglas County District Court.

I am also writing to emphasize the critical importance of manageable caseloads for public defenders in our justice system. Public defenders play a vital role in ensuring that every individual, regardless of financial status, receives fair representation. However, the overwhelming caseloads we face severely hinder our ability to provide effective counsel.

Excessive caseloads lead to inadequate preparation time, increased stress, and ultimately, a decline in the quality of defense provided. This not only jeopardizes the rights of the accused but also undermines public trust in the judicial system. Ensuring that public defenders have smaller, more manageable caseloads is essential for upholding the principles of justice and equality.

I urge the Supreme Court to consider measures that can alleviate this burden and support the fundamental right to effective legal representation.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Catherine Houser (she/ella)
Attorney/Abogada
Titus, Halls, & Sellers
(509) 888-5271
catherine@titushallssellers.com