

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Comment regarding CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCr 9.2
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 8:06:16 AM

From: Colin Patrick <Colin@washapp.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 8:50 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment regarding CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCr 9.2

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,

My name is Colin Patrick and I have been a public defender my entire career, first at the Snohomish County Public Defender Association and now at the Washington Appellate Project. I write to urge this Court to adopt the proposed amendments to the indigent defense standards.

I understand the Court has a difficult question in front of it and I earnestly believe it will actively consider all those who have spoken or written about the proposed standards. However, I also believe, especially after my own review of the written comments and testimony, it will see that, with near uniformity, those who are public defenders are urging adoption of the standards.

This is because those in the field recognize the house is on fire. Caseloads for all public defenders are untenable. It affects the ability of defenders to adequately advocate for their clients. It causes exodus of those in the field because of the deleterious effects their caseload has on their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It is nothing other than the inevitable collapse of our criminal justice system.

I do not doubt that implementing the standards will pose challenges and certainly will necessitate additional state funding. However, as already stated, the house is on fire. We do not have time to study different ways to put it out. We do not have time to wait for funding for new fire engines. We must put it out before all is lost.

I urge this Court to adopt the proposed standards and take a critical step to securing the future of the public defense system.

Colin Patrick

Washington Appellate Project