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Subject: FW: Comment re: caseload standards for public defense
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:06:44 PM

From: Eleana Stevens <eleana.stevens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2024 12:45 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment re: caseload standards for public defense

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Hello,

My name is Eleana Stevens, and I am an attorney licensed to practice in Washington State. I started out my career as a public defender, working for the Snohomish County Public Defender Association. I adored my clients, the office, and my work. My life took a turn when my husband enrolled in dental school in California about a year and a half after I started in this role.

As my whole family lives in Seattle, and with a plan for my husband to return to Seattle after school, I decided to continue living and practicing law in Washington. As much as I loved my role as a public defender and continue to feel it was my true passion, I was unable to continue in the role as the caseload demand and the pay made it extremely difficult to maintain a long distance marriage.

The caseload was a major reason why I had to leave a job I adored. I would like to share my story in support of more reasonable caseload standards to enable passionate public defenders to continue pursuing their passions, at the front lines of criminal legal reform.

Best,

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Eleana Stevens
Attorney at Law
WSBA #58281