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**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense  
**Date:** Monday, October 14, 2024 8:19:03 AM

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**From:** Eli Braun <eli.braun@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 14, 2024 7:58 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense

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Dear Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court,

I am writing to strongly urge you to adopt the proposed court rule to codify WSBA's Criminal Caseload Standards for Public Defenders. These caseload standards are essential to protecting and improving the rights of the most marginalized and vulnerable. I have been working as a public defender for the past 10 years. I came to this profession because it was my dream to help people.

I am post-conviction attorney in Maryland. I focus on claims of ineffective assistance of counsel. Criminal defense attorneys, even the most committed, sometimes fail to provide the effective representation that the Constitution requires. When they fail, it's often not because they were not smart enough or eager enough. It's because they had so many other clients that they *couldn't* provide effective assistance. You can't ask a person to do more than what's possible.

If any of us were in the position to require publicly appointed counsel, we would want that attorney to have the time needed to investigate and defend the case.

I ask the Court to adopt the proposed caseload standards.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Eli Braun