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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 STDS
Date: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:52:50 PM

From: Ellyn R. Berg <eberg@grantcountywa.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 28, 2024 1:51 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 STDS

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Hello:

I am writing to oppose the proposed new standards for public defense. I am a Defense Investigator with 25 years' experience and currently work in a county public defender's office. The reasons I am asking for the new standards to NOT be implemented are four-fold. First, our office can't hire attorneys as it is right now. Our pay is generous, but finding new attorneys to work in Public Defense is just not happening. The prosecutor's office is having the same experience. So, I guess I'm not sure how we are going to magically produce hundreds of new attorneys to work for either side over the next few years. The same holds true for investigators. We have a shortage of investigators in this state as well. The long and short of it is, the manpower alone to implement the new standards unobtainable. If case credits need to be reduced a bit, then reduce it a bit, but dropping it so low makes this whole proposal feel like an experiment - an experiment that is likely to fail.

Secondly, I am also a taxpayer and worry about the cost of the proposed new standards. The cost alone could bankrupt our little county. And it's not just the cost of additional attorneys, investigators, social workers, support staff, etc. We must also look at the cost of facilities and offices for these folks to work, as well as the cost to the county for additional benefits packages, paid leave, etc.

Additionally, I think the new proposed standards are trying to implement a one-size fits all approach when the counties across the State of Washington are vastly different. What may work for King County may not work for Grant County or Chelan County. Personally, I don't think our attorneys are so overworked that they are not able to rigorously defend their clients.

Sure, it might be great to have a couple more attorneys at our disposal, but we are getting by just fine. Please, reconsider the case load limitations - the numbers are ridiculously low in this proposal.

Lastly, as a Washington State resident, I am afraid. I am afraid that if the new standards are

passed, the State is going to stop charging certain crimes. I am afraid we will follow other states who have opened their towns and cities to lawlessness and rising crime. I am afraid, that with the shortage of attorneys and lowering the case limits to such unreasonable numbers that we will only focus on the most serious crimes, which in my opinion, would be a big mistake. If you are looking for a reason to drive people out of Washington State, this could well be that reason.

Thank you,

Ellyn Berg, Chief Staff Investigator
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