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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed indigent Caseload Standards
Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:51:32 PM

From: Emily Faucher <efaucher@snocopda.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:51 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed indigent Caseload Standards

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To whom it may concern:

I was on the fence about whether to submit a comment. I'm a public defender in Snohomish County at SCPDA. I'm emphatically in support of the standards but as a public defender, haven't had the time to sit down and write a letter.

Today, I wrapped a trial with a factually innocent client and the jury acquitted him. Which is the best feeling in the world. I know I gave him the best representation I possibly could. I left it all on the field. I'm exhausted. I'm emotional. And I have more work to do tonight.

The worst part of this job is that as it stands, I can't give every client that level of representation. When I take one case to trial, other clients sit in jail with unanswered calls. I'm tired of triaging my cases and discerning who is most urgently in need of help. It's like tending to the drowning. And I'm struggling to keep up. Each of my clients - whether I like them or not - has a right to what today's client received in trial. I wish I had the time, energy, and bandwidth to give it to everyone.

I hardly have time to chat with clients about their personal lives until sentencing is on the horizon. If I have to research a novel issue for one client, it sets me behind on my other files. I have no choice but sort my case file by date of arraignment and potential sentence. When I prioritize one person, someone else inevitably falls to the wayside. This is not the representation our constitution promises. Our constitution promises effective and competent advocacy. Regardless of how much money you make.

I know you can't make two of me, and you can't make my cases go away. But these proposed standards are the next best thing. No poor person should receive anything less than zealous and, frankly, alert, counsel. I hope the Court adopts the proposal.

Kind regards,
Emily Faucher
SCPDA

Sent from my iPhone