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Subject: FW: Comment on Proposed Amendments to Standards for Indigent Defense
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From: Felipe T Objio <fto25@uw.edu>
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Subject: Comment on Proposed Amendments to Standards for Indigent Defense

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Dear Justices,

My name is Felipe Objio. I am a first-generation law student attending the University of Washington. I am in my final year of law school, and I will be starting my legal career with the King County Department of Public Defense next September. I love this work; it would be no exaggeration to say that my almost 20 years of education has led me to finding my place as a public defender. I was drawn to this area of law despite the lower pay and long hours. However, if the court does not adopt the proposed case load standards I have a genuine fear that I will not be able to stay in this position long term.

My goal is to work as a public defender for as long as possible, but if the proposed amendments are not approved then I will not be able to stay in this role. I am the Vice President of UW's Student Bar Association which has allowed me to gain insight into the opinions of the student body. Many of my peers have been discouraged from pursuing a career in public defense due to the extreme case load and workload that is ravaging many public defenders' offices. If the state and this Court do not adopt these new standards not only, will it cause current public defenders to leave, but it will also turn away future attorneys from entering the field which will have disastrous effects on the criminal justice system.

Thank you for conducting these public hearings and being open to public comment and I hope you approve the proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Felipe Objio

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