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**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Suggested Amendments to the Standards for Indigent Defense  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024 4:36:12 PM

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**From:** George Finkle <[finkle@jdrllc.com](mailto:finkle@jdrllc.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024 4:35 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
**Cc:** George Finkle <[finkle@jdrllc.com](mailto:finkle@jdrllc.com)>  
**Subject:** Suggested Amendments to the Standards for Indigent Defense

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Dear Justices,

I served 1976-82 as a Juvenile and Felony Division attorney and Deputy Director of the Seattle-King County Public Defender Association and 1989-99 as a Superior Court Judge. Since leaving the bench, I have continued to be interested in, and generally informed about, public defense issues.

Over the years I have participated in and observed public defense in Washington there has been a dramatic increase in the hours per case required to provide effective assistance of counsel. E.g., attorneys and investigators now often must locate, obtain, extract, and review many hours of patrol car camera, body camera, and CCTV footage, as well as cell phone data. Meaningful client communication is increasingly challenging. Researching legal issues and exploring sentencing options is more complex.

Further, sustainable caseloads and competitive salaries are necessary to attract and retain skilled and committed attorneys.

I urge you to support the Suggested Amendments, perhaps somewhat delaying implementation dates, particularly for Phase 3, to permit realistic planning, funding, and phase-in.

Regards, George Finkle, King County Superior Court Judge (Ret.)