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To: <u>Martinez, Jacquelynn</u>

 Subject:
 FW: CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 STDS

 Date:
 Monday, September 23, 2024 8:07:50 AM

From: Branham, Virginia < Virginia. Branham@kingcounty.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 7:22 PM

To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK < SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>

Subject: CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 STDS

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Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court:

I am writing to you to express my strong support of the proposed changes to the indigent defense standards. I have been a public defender in King County for 11 years. The current caseload standards are outdated: cases have increased in complexity, resulting in more time an attorney needs to allocate to a case to meet even minimum standards of representation. Too often, the outcome of a case is less about the merits and more about the resources and skill of the attorney; high caseloads exacerbate that disparity. Feeding into that disparity as well is the fact that is difficult to retain skilled attorneys because of the demands of the job. I strongly urge the Court to adopt the proposed changes to the standards.

Sincerely,

Ginger Branham (she/her), WSBA 44591 Northwest Defenders Division King County Department of Public Defense 710 Second Avenue, Suite 250 Seattle, WA 98104

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