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To: [Martinez, Jacquelyn](#)
Subject: FW: Support for the Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 3:41:57 PM

From: Jones, Jaclyn <jackiejones@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 3:38 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for the Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense

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Dear Washington Supreme Court,

I am writing to ask you to please support reduced caseload standards. I am a Paralegal in King County, Department of Public Defense. I love my job and I do my very best work for my clients, however due to current caseloads it is humanly impossible for me to even do the bare minimum asked of me.

We desperately need more support. Our entire office has been on the brink of collapse, with no relief in sight. Every time an attorney burns out and leaves my office, the volume of work increases even more, and our clients suffer.

Recently I learned about the concept of 'moral injury.' How my coworkers and I are put in an impossible situation where we have to constantly juggle emergent demands while the stakes are so high, and peoples' liberty and lives are on the line. We are not given the resources to do our jobs effectively, and while our clients suffer the most, we are also harmed in this process.

The poor representation that many defendants receive is a hidden cost that the public never sees, and politicians feel no impetus to fix. Unlike most legal practice areas, public defense necessitates stringent requirements to ensure that the government doesn't go back on Gideon's Promise. It is part of your important role in WA State to ensure that our residents receive their 6th Amendment rights.

Again, I love my job, I have only been here 2 years, and I want to make this my career. I have a deep commitment to my clients and my coworkers, but this is not sustainable. Please, we cannot wait for years of discussion and slow movement, we need help now. Please accept the proposed rules.

Thank you kindly,

Jackie Jones

Paralegal | Seattle Municipal Court Unit

King County Department of Public Defense

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Pronouns: *She/Her*

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