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Subject: FW: New defense standards
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From: Joe Olson <jwolson2003@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:11 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: New defense standards

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Good day,

I am writing to oppose the new public defense standards proposed by the WSBA. As a retired attorney (who once worked briefly for PCPA), I am somewhat familiar with the criminal justice system. I believe that the proposed standards are unrealistic and will result in a system that re-abuses victims. Unless things have changed dramatically from what I remember, 90+ percent of misdemeanors and a similar number of low level felonies (drug, thefts etc) result in plea bargains or dismissals. While admittedly having not read the proposal in great detail, it appears that the proposed scoring is based on charging not the actual time a case takes (suggesting a system that grades plea deals v. trials equally based on charging decisions) seems as if something else is behind the proposal. I certainly hope that the Court remembers to factor in the victims of crime, not just the accused. It appears that for whatever reason, certain members of the WSBA are interested in at least a partial dismantling of the criminal justice system (some more openly than others) with a proposal that in many ways would result in just that outcome. Please remember the actual attorney time a case takes in the system, not just charging decisions and please remember the impact on the victims.

Thanks for considering my opinion.

Joseph W. Olson