

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: proposal to mandate Wa State Supreme Court to cut back on public defender caseloads  
**Date:** Monday, October 28, 2024 8:07:37 AM

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**From:** harbees@olyphen.com <harbees@olyphen.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 26, 2024 12:29 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** RE: proposal to mandate Wa State Supreme Court to cut back on public defender caseloads

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As a current recipient of Clallam County Superior Court Jury Summons # 832120, I learned from the court that I will not be needed for my two-week term of service ending Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Although I admit to some *personal* relief at this outcome, I must say I am surprised by it. Especially after reading Pepper Fischer's article "[Prosecutor, Police Chief warn about impending State Supreme Court decision](#)" today.

It paints an *alarming future for the victims of crime* in our County if the State Bar Association's proposal mandating the State Supreme Court to cut back on public defender caseloads is successful.

We residents living *outside of the city limits* are acutely aware of the current limitations of law enforcement to respond to/investigate/ and prosecute crimes committed here. This is Police Chief Brian Smith's ominous assessment of the mandate:

- "the lion's share of cases that will be dismissed will be property crimes, and the effects on daily life will be profound. Crisis would be a mild term. You can't decriminalize two-thirds of, or three-quarters of the work that we do and tell the public we don't prosecute property crime. We don't prosecute most of the crimes now that get prosecuted. And what I mean by that is, we won't have civil society as you know it now. Law enforcement will still make arrests, will still respond, will still investigate. But when you don't charge what is otherwise a very chargeable case, the people that suffer are the victims. Nothing like it, to my knowledge, has ever happened in the US. I can't imagine living here under that."

...And neither do we. We need more resources allocated to fix our entire broken legal system, not less ...Please do not allow this mandate to pass.

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