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Subject: FW: Indigent Defense Standards Comment
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:33:41 PM

From: Julia De La Fuente <juliadlf@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2024 3:32 PM
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Subject: Indigent Defense Standards Comment

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To whom it may concern,

I am a third year law student at the University of Washington School of Law. I am writing to ask that the Supreme Court pass the proposed changes to Court standards for indigent defense. I came to law school knowing I wanted to be a public defender and am eager to work for the Snohomish County Public Defenders Association when I graduate. I want to spend my career as a public defender, but am already being warned by attorneys, professors, and other students that I probably will not last long.

My friends are signing contracts at firms where they will be making three times what I will. I did not want to come to law school to make a lot of money. I came to feel like I was making a difference in people's lives and giving them fair and competent representation. To do that, I need to be able to spend the appropriate amount of time with cases.

I want to work as a public defender for a long, long time so I can make a positive change in Washington State. However, I also want to feel like I am a valued member of the Washington legal community and my work is valued. Just because my work is not as valued as other fields within the legal industry does not mean that the court should neglect to uphold fair standards for not only the attorneys, but the clients. Please pass the proposed changes to the indigent defense standards.

Most sincerely,
Julia

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