

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Defender Case Loads  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:37:57 AM

---

-----Original Message-----

From: Kathleen O'Connor <[kmargaret@me.com](mailto:kmargaret@me.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 11:36 AM  
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
Cc: Deborah And Rynold Fleck <[fleck\\_ry\\_c@msn.com](mailto:fleck_ry_c@msn.com)>  
Subject: Public Defender Case Loads

[You don't often get email from [kmargaret@me.com](mailto:kmargaret@me.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, DO NOT DO SO! Instead, report the incident.

Dear Justices,

I write in support of retired Judge Fleck's comments to the proposed rule. I realize the Supreme Court does not control the purse strings but it should not "be above the fray" when it comes to the cost of this particular proposal nor the emergency the entire justice system is encountering.

Ask yourself, can the courts of the State of Washington provide fair and speedy justice to all litigants? In Spokane County we need at least three more judges. The 13th judge position was finally filled in 2023. It had been authorized almost 20 years ago!

The hard work of reallocating responsibilities for the costs of the justice system needs to start now!

Yours truly,

Judge Kathleen O'Connor, retired  
Spokane County Superior Court, 1988-2016

Sent from my iPhone