

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Defense Standards  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 3:44:23 PM

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**From:** LISA ELLIOTT <prosecutorelliott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2024 1:20 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Public Defense Standards

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I ENTHUSIASTICALLY support these changes. Public Defenders are the backbone of our justice system. Our public defenders are overworked and UNDERPAID. I am not a public defender but I work with them daily.

Until our state ensures that Public Defenders are paid and provided benefits, as our Prosecutors are, then the system will continue to crumble.

Most against these standards are prosecutors and Local Cities that do not want their resources going to public defense. They have recruited constituents to write letters in opposition claiming that we will deteriorate into lawlessness unless we keep the status quo. These are the City's that pay their Public Defenders less than 500.00 Dollars per case and expect them to also serve as courtesy counsel to assist the unrepresented so the Court or the Prosecutor does not have to engage with these individuals. These City's will gladly pay for Prosecutors or Police and for jail beds, but not compensate the Public Defenders in a way that provides for a decent living.

They will say that our justice system will crumble. That is not true. There are many alternatives to prosecuting and jailing individuals for crimes. We need to invest in those alternatives and we need to invest in our Public Defenders. Community Courts are under utilized.

The Public Defenders that I work with, are feeling pressured by their contracting agencies to sign on to letters with prosecutors about how they oppose these standards. I cannot sit by and watch this happen.

I am a Prosecutor and I stand with Public Defenders and pray the Supreme Court hears our cries.

Sincerely,

L. E.