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**From:** Lucas Barringer <[lbarringer@snocopda.org](mailto:lbarringer@snocopda.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:02 AM  
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**Subject:** Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense Comment

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When I first inherited my caseload as a public defender I asked one of my colleagues who I had previously been working alongside as a rule 9 for advice. He told me that being a public defender was like getting used to the feeling of drowning. I learned a lot in that office and I've since moved to another firm which has really opened my eyes to just how true of a statement that can be, but also how wrong it can and *should* be.

One year ago I had around 200 cases. Today I have less than 90. When I heard how small my caseload was going to be I was worried that I wouldn't have enough work to fill the time, that I would stall as an attorney working such an "easy" caseload. The fact is that it *is* easier. If all you want to do is stay afloat and try to minimize jail time for your clients, do the bare minimum to hold onto the contract and your license, then decreasing caseloads will make your life easier. There are so many more reasons to shrink caseloads than that though.

The amount of time and attention I'm able to devote to learning my cases, my clients and just researching the law has increased dramatically since making this move. I get to know my clients now in a way I never really could before. I know what the issues are in their lives, I know where the holes are in the cases against them, and I have the time to run motions, to meet with them even if there isn't a "point." When I had 200 cases I had time to represent each of my clients, to show up in court and tell the judge what their name was and why we were asking for a continuance or what they were pleading to. Now that I have less than 100 cases I have time to be their advocate.

In the past 6 months since taking on this smaller caseload I feel I've developed faster and better as a public defender than I had in 2+ years beforehand when all I had time for was triage. There is no question that my clients are better off now that they are one of ~90 than when they were one of ~200.

I support the proposed changes.

Lucas Barringer  
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