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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Support for WSBA and CPD proposed amendments
Date: Friday, October 18, 2024 3:55:51 PM

From: Lucinda Whaley <cyn979@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 18, 2024 3:45 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Fwd: Support for WSBA and CPD proposed amendments

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Please see the attached.
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Begin forwarded message:

From: Lucinda Whaley <cyn979@aol.com>
Date: October 18, 2024 at 3:42:35 PM PDT
To: supreme@courts.wa.gob
Subject: Support for WSBA and CPD proposed amendments

Dear Supreme Court:

I am writing in support of the three areas recommended by our WSBA and the CPD for expedited consideration of changes to the standards for representation by public defense attorneys.

I have practiced law in Spokane since 1977. My practice has been civil, but I have known many public defense attorneys in Spokane County and elsewhere since I became a lawyer. My daughter is a Snohomish County Public Defender. My brother in law was a public defender his entire career. I have watched many young attorneys leave public service over the years related to the unrelenting demands of their caseloads, and the inadequacy of support staff. As a senior attorney, I have seen this situation only get worse over the years.

This is not only a problem in Washington State but is nationwide as recognized by the ABA. WSBA and the CPD have been working on the solutions to this problem since 2022. I believe it was compounded by the pandemic when courts were shut down, but

the need for lawyers did not stop.

Furthermore, while it is beyond your jurisdiction, our Legislature and local governments will be required to fund the changes that become necessary, once the guidelines are adopted. I urge you to stay engaged in this process at the state and local level. We have many poor local counties in Eastern Washington where there is never enough money to fund the judicial system. We will need more judges and more clerks.

It is simply untenable to have public defense lawyers expected to provide an adequate defense in the current system.

Please expedite the adoption of these changes.

Very truly yours,

Lucinda S. Whaley
#7911

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