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Subject: FW: CrR 3.1 and CrRLJ 3.1 Comment
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From: Maggie Huston <MHuston@masoncountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 9:54 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: CrR 3.1 and CrRLJ 3.1 Comment

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Honorable Justices:

I respectfully ask that you enact the proposed changes to CrR 3.1 and CrRLJ 3.1 and enact the decreased caseload standards for public defenders.

I have been working as a paralegal and now administrative assistant in public defense for almost 6 years. I started as a misdemeanor paralegal and now work as the administrative assistant for Mason County Public Defense. Due to budget restraints and a crushing workload, I also work as a felony paralegal.

Over the years, I have watched misdemeanor and felony caseloads cause dozens and dozens of attorneys to crash and burn. It is not humanly possible to give every client the attention and time that they deserve. As it currently stands, our felony attorneys have about 11 hours to devote to each of their cases, which includes murders and homicides and serious assaults.

The current caseload standard causes great harm to both public defenders and indigent defendants. Please consider enacting the proposed changes.

Maggie Huston
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