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Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 3:08:28 PM

From: Matthew Mearns <MMearns@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:46 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: WSBA Public Defender Caseload Standards

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Good afternoon your honors –

I am asking the Court to adopt the proposed caseload standards from WSBA. There simply are not enough hours in the day to provide all my clients the defense they deserve. Public Defenders earn far less than their counterparts in private practice, and face a higher caseload. Burnout due to high caseloads is serious, and puts more strain on those of us who remain when high-level attorneys quit. (And they almost always quit before they retire). We can't keep this up for much longer.

Thanks,

Matt Mearns



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