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**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelyn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment for Proposed changes to CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 - Standards for Indigent Defense  
**Date:** Monday, August 26, 2024 9:44:24 AM

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**From:** Mattapang <mattapang@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 26, 2024 9:44 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Comment for Proposed changes to CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, JuCR 9.2 - Standards for Indigent Defense

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Washington State Supreme Court Clerk,

I am writing this comment to the Supreme Court in my individual capacity. I have been a public defender in King County for over 16 years. It is the only post law school job I have held. I was a staff attorney, supervisor, and now a managing attorney for one of King County Department of Public Defense divisions.

Public defense in this state has issues with burn out and recruitment and that will not change without updating public defense standards. Additionally, the practice has changed significantly since when I started, especially as it is connected to discovery. A change in public defense standards should be changed. Public defense by its very nature represents poor people. Additionally, too often poverty and a lack of wealth are linked to racial identity. The current standards are outdated and do not reflect the work required of public defenders to effectively represent clients. Like with public education, our clients often do not have a choice in what office they're assigned to or what attorney. Too often the attorneys are over extended and a client's case should not be compromised because of that. It undermines the legitimacy and confidence of the legal system and process when clients do not receive an effective attorney.

The Council on Public Defense spent months reviewing what standards should be in place. They relied on the ABA/Rand study to assess an appropriate workload. The Court should adopt the new standards proposed by the WSBA.

Matt Pang, WSBA#: 39607