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From: MICHAEL DOWNES <mdownes52@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 1, 2024 11:43 AM
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Subject: Public Defender Standards

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Justices of the Washington Supreme Court,

I write to support the comment submitted by retired King County Superior Court Judge Fleck about Public Defender standards. Certainly, it is vital that indigent persons be properly and effectively represented. In order for that goal to be achieved there must be adequate funding. I urge the Supreme Court to use its good offices to engage with the other governmental branches to work cooperatively toward this worthy goal rather than adopt the piecemeal approach of setting standards without a structure in place to pay for it.

Thank you for your consideration of this submittal. I realize it is a day beyond the comment submission deadline, but respectfully ask that it be considered anyway due to the importance of the issue.

Judge Michael Downes (Ret)
Snohomish County Superior Court