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Subject: FW: Comment on Proposed Public Defense Standards - CrR3.1/CrRLJ3.1/JuCR9.2
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From: Sirkin, Micol <Micol.Sirkin@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 3:26 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on Proposed Public Defense Standards - CrR3.1/CrRLJ3.1/JuCR9.2

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I have been a public defender for 14 years. I can tell you from personal experience that the current caseload standards can be crushing and lead me to finding ways to cut corners just to survive. This is not fair to our clients. Our clients are vulnerable. They don't know how to defend themselves and they need strong capable advocates who are not overly burdened by their caseloads. The State is in control of their filings but we are at the mercy of the caseload standards and how many attorneys we have the budget to hire. This proposed standard serves to protect public defenders and thereby serve the most vulnerable members of the public. When public defenders are overwhelmed, work falls through the cracks and constitutional rights are violated. These proposed standards serve to better balance the system. Please adopt these proposed standards.

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