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**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: CrR 3.1 and CrRLJ 3.1 comment  
**Date:** Friday, September 27, 2024 11:19:04 AM

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**From:** Rachel Boughton <rachelcboughton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2024 11:13 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Rose Boughton <rosecboughton@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** CrR 3.1 and CrRLJ 3.1 comment

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Your Honors,

I have personally watched the deleterious effects of the current case count legislation on public defenders in Mason County. My daughter is a public defender who began by working in District Court and now works in Superior Court as a felony attorney. She is one of the most practical and ruthlessly efficient people I've ever met. She is effective, loves her job and cares about her clients. She is well liked and respected by her colleagues and the community. Current case counts make her unable to do her job without working 10-12 hour days, with extra work on weekends, and even then she is always stressed and playing catch-up. She also often carries a pager for DUI calls, a shared duty with others in her office. This kind of workload isn't sustainable.

Mason County seems to have a supportive and effective public defense culture, but everyone is extremely overworked. I have watched while attorneys leave for private jobs and can't be replaced. I have seen how expensive it is when excess cases have to then be covered by private attorneys who are paid at least 4x what a county attorney would cost. So the supposed economies of forcing this much work on county employees are false as well.

There is a constitutional guarantee to provide effective public defense to indigent clients. This is non-negotiable. Reducing case counts will increase efficiency, provide better public safety, and likely even save money. Not doing so risks an expensive and public crisis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,  
Rachel Boughton