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To Whom it May Concern:

I was recently asked about my thoughts regarding the Supreme Court adopting the proposed caseload standards.

I responded that standards should be reevaluated and changed as cases are not the same as they used to be with the new technology. It takes longer for attorneys to review all the material submitted with each case. Body cam footage, personal cameras, and videos are not the same as they used to be with a police report based on witness statements. Some of the technology, though, should make it easier to resolve a case than to take it to trial, which can take more time. I agree with reviewing and possibly implementing new standards, but I'm afraid I have to disagree with the current standards being proposed with the implementation timeline.

The current timeline could put the criminal justice system into chaos. Judges should not only have to decide to dismiss cases if there are not enough qualified defense attorneys to take cases. If these standards are implemented, they wouldn't be equitable statewide. Some counties may need to pay attorneys more to entice them to work in one area rather than the other. This means counties will be unable to afford quality, qualified public defense, which may lead to more segregated areas with increased criminal activity as individuals who know the consequences will not likely be enforced due to the inability to provide defendants with their constitutional right to representation.

I urge the Supreme Court to reevaluate the current standards and, if the choice is to implement new standards, to allow time for legislation and counties to come up with ways to provide enough attorneys at a reasonable and affordable rate.

Counties are having bidding wars to find qualified attorneys for unrepresented clients with the current caseload standards. I hate to imagine what type of vigilante justice would occur if time was not considered.

Very truly yours,

Raylene King  
County Clerk