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To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Caseload standards
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From: Renee Alsept <renee.alsept@co.thurston.wa.us>
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To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Caseload standards

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As a public defender of 35 years, I recall when the current caseload standards were implemented, and that was such a welcome change at the time. Since then, it's become apparent that the standards once again need to be addressed. I can pinpoint the workload as one of the primary reasons I had significant health issues flare up in the late 1990's and again in 2022. I will continue to do public defense, but we are not drawing people to the work like we used to and this is very concerning.

Unfortunately, we don't draw the brightest and the best like we used to, and when we get them to start the work, they are often observed by the private firms or the feds and different state agencies, and they are pulled away from frontline public defense on pay alone. Recently our office lost two incredible younger attorneys who really wanted to stay and remain public defenders, but they were offered significantly higher pay with much lower caseloads elsewhere and they grudgingly left.