

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: WSBA Proposal to LIMIT Public Defenders
Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 8:06:02 AM

From: Reta Palmer <palmer.reta@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2024 9:41 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: WSBA Proposal to LIMIT Public Defenders

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Honorable Justices,

I am writing to OPPOSE the proposal put forward by the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) to limit the number of cases for our Public Defenders.

This proposal would create catastrophic fiscal and practical impacts on the Criminal Justice System in Washington, potentially freeing accused criminals because public defenders are not available. The proposal would also limit the ability for private attorneys to serve as public defenders.

Allowing the courts to create even more backlogs while limiting access to public defenders is not the answer. Nor is prosecuting fewer people, as is being suggested.

If people are committing crimes in Washington, they must be held accountable. Do NOT let criminals go free because the State doesn't have enough public defenders.

If the goal is more public defenders, they must be fully funded by the State. Adding more staff will ease the workload. A simple solution.

Washington Citizens deserve a safe and accountable state!

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Reta Palmer