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I write to express my full support for the proposed amendments to the Court's Standards for Indigent Defense. I am the Director of a small, independent, non-profit law firm in Port Townsend with four attorneys, an investigator, and two support staff. We have provided public defense in Jefferson County courts for almost twenty years now. Recently, our county commissioners wrote to the court bemoaning the lack of State funding for public defense. And while I am sympathetic to their funding concerns, it certainly should not be at the expense of our clients getting the zealous representation they deserve. Unless public defenders' caseload limits are reduced, the criminal legal system will continue to operate on two separate tracks: one for those with money and another for those without – separate and certainly not equal.

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