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Subject: FW: In Support of the Changes to Washington Supreme Court Public Defense Standards
Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:48:17 AM

From: Rieanna McPhie <rmcphie@uw.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 11:42 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: In Support of the Changes to Washington Supreme Court Public Defense Standards

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Hello,

I am writing this email to endorse the new Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense in Washington State, which include 1) lowering the maximum caseload for public defense attorneys, 2) revising some qualification requirements for public defense attorneys, and 3) setting minimum support staffing requirements for public defense attorneys and offices.

These changes are needed in a timely manner as public defense in Washington is facing a crisis of attrition and an inability to recruit staff due to the overwhelming workloads and poor compensation. To better serve and support those in legal involvement who were a public defense attorney, it is required that the attorneys have better support and have the time and capacity to provide their services.

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