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From: Robin Emmans <robin.emmans@secondstreetlaw.com>
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Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Standards for Indigent Defense

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I am a private criminal defense attorney. I support caseload limits that allow my colleagues who provide indigent defense the same time and attention for each client that I am able to provide. I support my colleagues who live and breath indigent defense having the same level of income and quality of life balance that I am able to maintain by controlling my own caseload. The new limits are a good move in that direction. In the context of attorney shortages, the change may seem to exacerbate the problems of an already broken system by limiting what the attorneys we do have can do. However, continuing to accept a broken system and limp along without change is not a better answer. Burning out the experienced lawyers we have in place is not an answer. Anything we can do to retain and recruit attorneys is necessary. Allowing defense attorneys to simply do a good job is necessary.

Robin Emmans