

Honorable Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
Email: supreme@courts.wa.gov.

Dear Honorable Justices,

Subject: Support for the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards

I am writing to express my strong support for the adoption of the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards. I have worked at the Snohomish County Public Defender Association since September 4, 2018.

The typical image of a public defender is stressed, overworked, incompetent, and unable to properly represent clients. Adopting these new standards would be a significant step forward in changing that perception of public defense. Our office has witnessed the positive impact a comprehensive legal team (attorneys, investigators, legal assistants, and social workers) that is well-supported by supervision, administrative, and technical services can have on a person's case. Adopting standards that lower workloads, provide higher compensation, and provide more funding for support staff can only lead to better outcomes for Washington State citizens.

While these changes have costs, the cost of inaction is far greater. The public defense crisis will only worsen, and the expense of addressing it will increase. Now is the time to act and change the course of public defense in our state.

Thank you for reviewing my request. I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephen Michel
Office Manager
Snohomish County Public Defender Association
2722 Colby Ave Suite 200
Everett WA 98201

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Good morning,

Please see attached a Letter of Support for the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards.

Thank you,

Stephen Michel
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