

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Changes to Standards for Indigent DefenseI
Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 11:50:54 AM

From: Steve Scott <scott@jdrllc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 11:50 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed Changes to Standards for Indigent DefenseI

You don't often get email from scott@jdrllc.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

I served as a Superior Court Judge in King County from 1988 to 2005. After beginning my legal career as a law clerk for the Oregon Court of Appeals, I moved to Walla Walla to work for Prison Legal Services and then to Seattle in 1976 to work as a Public Defender. Within months I was trying felony cases. Being a Public Defender in those days was a challenge to say the least and most of us did not last long in the job. It was such an important step forward when the Standards for Indigent Defense were first adopted. Now, however, in the increasingly complicated and demanding world of criminal defense, we are losing ground that we had gained in the effort to provide constitutionally adequate representation.

While implantation of these proposed changes to the standards will undoubtedly be a challenge and indeed may require more time than hoped, I am absolutely convinced that adoption of these changes is essential to the constitutionally required provision of effective legal counsel to criminal defendants. The fact that it will be difficult should not be a reason not to act. Respectfully, I urge you to give your most serious consideration to their adoption.

Steve Scott