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**Subject:** FW: Writing in Support of Proposed Public Defense Caseload Standards  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 3:29:52 PM

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**From:** Steven Aslin <[saslin@snocopda.org](mailto:saslin@snocopda.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <[SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** Writing in Support of Proposed Public Defense Caseload Standards

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposed public defense caseload standards. I have been a public defender for just over a year in Snohomish County. The caseload standards must be lowered to ensure constitutionally sufficient representation for the thousands of people charged with crimes every year. As things stand, many accused people are not sufficiently represented in Snohomish County, the county I practice in.

The current caseloads are causing attorneys who provide constitutionally sufficient defenses to burnout. They put pressure on PD's to choose less work heavy defense strategies and push clients to plead. That pressure is not consistent with the constitutional requirements of a full defense. Those who choose to provide a constitutionally adequate defense sacrifice greatly to keep up. Implementing the proposed standards will help those who practice at a constitutional level stay in the profession and allow those who do not to start.

If these standards are not adopted, the only other option to ensure the constitution is being upheld is to require the state charge fewer cases. The system cannot keep relying on underpaid public defenders to work evenings and weekends to provide an adequate defense. The Supreme Court and the State have a responsibility to ensure every defendant receives an effective defense; currently that is not happening.

Thank you,

Steven Aslin

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