

Tai Williams, c/o Snohomish County Public Defenders Association
2722 Colby Ave Ste. 200,
Everett, WA, 98201
October 22, 2024,

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.

- Standards for administrative support
- Caseload standards for attorneys
- Standards for investigator staffing
- Standards for social workers
- Standards for technical support
- Standards for training
- Standards for supervision, leadership, HR, etc.

As a legal assistant working closely with public defenders, and as someone that aspires to become a practicing attorney, I strongly advocate for the implementation of national public defender workload standards. These standards are critical to ensure that each defendant receives the attention and quality representation they deserve. In our office, I witness firsthand how overwhelming caseloads, and staffing can hinder our ability to provide thorough support, from timely filing of motions and engaging in resolutions to conducting research and providing thorough and zealous representation. Without these workload limits, public defenders, administrative support, investigators, social workers and all roles and components of the legal office are stretch too thin, often forced to prioritize cases based on urgency rather than merit. It also hampers the relationships between the accused and the defenders themselves. This also compromises justice and the right to a fair defense. National standards would help balance caseloads, allowing defenders to dedicate sufficient time to

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each case, ensure thorough representation, and ultimately improve outcomes for those who rely on public defense.

Sincerely,

Tai Williams

Tai Williams, c/o Snohomish County Public Defenders Association

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Support for the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:38:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2023 National Public Defenders Workload Standards Support Letter.docx](#)

From: Tai Williams <twilliams@snocopda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 9:37 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Support for the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards

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Dear Honorable Justices,
Please see attached letter expressing my strong support for the adoption of the 2023 National Public Defender Workload Standards.

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- Caseload standards for attorneys
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- Standards for training
- Standards for supervision, leadership, HR, etc.

Thank you,
Tai Williams (She/Her/ Just my name)
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"If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have a moral obligation to do something about it"

John Lewis



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