

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Reduced caseloads are needed to ensure justice for all citizens; Troy Hollenbaugh
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 8:26:12 AM

From: Rocky Hollenbaugh <hollenbaughrocky@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2024 12:43 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Reduced caseloads are needed to ensure justice for all citizens; Troy Hollenbaugh

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Honorable Judges of Washington State,

Recently I read an article about the reduction of caseloads for public defenders in Washington State and am total agreement with this mandate. As a person who has been the intern for Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services, a son of a father who spent most of my childhood incarcerated, and having went through legal issues of my own.

I believe the current caseloads do not offer lawyers the ability to research cases and put together sufficient defenses, file motions, and properly fulfill there duties to their clients.

They are left with pushing clients into deals or trading with prosecutor to ensure the legal system isn't bogged down.

If public defenders have more time with their clients and more time for cases they would be able to get to know their clients legal problems and the individuals themselves, allowing them to make recommendations to community services and programs. One person who believes in an individual and has the ability to defend them properly can change communities, and the outcome of peoples lives.

Additionally, I believe public defenders truly want to help those less fortunate when they take on these roles, but are disheartened once they realize their caseloads don't allow them to help anyone fully. That they are inundated with cases that they are just doing the bare minimum on each case to get through the day. That is not what most of these public defenders wanted to do, they want to make a difference in people lives and to do that they have to have the time and bandwidth to explore all angles of each case. A smaller more manageable caseload provides that.

On a separate point, the cities and towns stated that funding for additional lawyers would be a major

issue, I think having citizens that are volunteers and rotated to decide if cases should even be prosecuted or filed may reduce caseloads going through to public defenders desks.

If a group of citizens review infractions, or alleged crimes and don't agree it should be prosecuted, then these cases could be eliminated before ever moving forward lessen the burden on public defenders and shifting it to the public itself. It wouldn't cost the city and towns any money and could potentially lessen the burden on public defenders.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Troy Hollenbaugh