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**To:** [Farino, Amber](#)  
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**Subject:** FW: Support for proposed amendments to standards for appellate indigent defense  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:19:39 AM

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**From:** Beverly Tsai <Beverly@washapp.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:19 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for proposed amendments to standards for appellate indigent defense

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Dear Supreme Court Justices and Rules Committee,

I support the proposed amendments to the caselaw standards for appellate indigent defense, CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2 Stds. The interim reduction from 36 to 25 case credits per year is a necessary step in the right direction.

Let me begin by saying what I like about my job. I find appellate public defense important and interesting. We get to be reflective and creative in our advocacy. I value our clients, who give our work meaning. They constantly surprise me with their perspectives and generosity, even in the heaviest situations. I also appreciate being part of and learning from a collaborative and vibrant community of advocates.

But one of the hardest parts about my job is the caseload. The standards do not accurately reflect our work, which often involves complex issues and unsettled law, irrespective of the length of the record. They do not reflect the time and effort we put into conducting research and crafting novel issues, or the time spent communicating with clients and their families. They do not reflect the time we spend reviewing response briefs, researching and preparing reply briefs, writing and responding to motions and other briefs, or preparing for oral argument. All of this is necessary to carry out our ethical and constitutional duties to our clients.

I have now worked as an appellate public defender for over three years. As the cases I am assigned have increased in size and complexity, and as my own life has progressed through new stages, I cannot keep up. I often work late nights and weekends to try and stay on top of my cases. This extra time spent working is at the expense of sleep, exercise, and time with my loved ones. I know with time I will become more knowledgeable and experienced, but the legal landscape is always changing. I will always be learning. The obligation to work to the best of my abilities on behalf of my

clients will always exist.

I cannot keep working like this. The current caseload standards are not sustainable. I ask this Court to adopt the proposed interim standards.

**Beverly Tsai (she/they\*)**

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