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Emily Thomasson
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April 30, 2025

Washington Supreme Court
415 12th Ave. SW
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2 (Appellate)

Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court:

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to the interim caselaw standards for appellate indigent defense. I fully support the proposal to reduce the standard appellate caseload from 36 to 25 cases per year.

I started working as an appellate attorney at Nielsen Koch & Grannis in September 2024. In the past eight months, I have witnessed firsthand the effects of the high caseloads on my colleagues. Not only can I see that the current caseloads are not maintainable, I also see how they affect my colleagues' personal lives. They work tirelessly and endlessly throughout the week and work on the weekends and holidays, only to find themselves still behind. The ever-increasing caseload is impossible to keep up with.

Although I am a newer attorney and have not yet experienced the significant caseload numbers that my fellow colleagues have, I have still experienced the effects of this increase in caseloads. Everyone at my office is extremely kind and supportive and has always been willing to answer any questions that I may have and help me in any way that I may need. However, everyone is also extremely busy. This puts me in a difficult position by constantly asking my colleagues for help in reviewing my briefs, discussing potential issues, and preparing me for oral arguments when I know how behind they are in their own caseloads.

It has been difficult learning the ins and outs of a new job without proper onboarding or training. Throwing new attorneys into the fire, so to speak, is not sustainable and does not provide our clients with the representation that they deserve. Everyone involved deserves better than this.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Emily Thomasson
Attorney at Law
WSBA No. 60311

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
To: Farino, Amber
Cc: Ward, David
Subject: FW: Comment on Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2 (Appellate)
Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 3:11:52 PM
Attachments: Caseload Comment.pdf

From: Emily Thomasson <thomassone@nwattorney.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:28 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on Proposed Standards for Indigent Defense CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2 (Appellate)

Hello,

Please find attached my comments on the proposed amendments regarding appellate caseload standards for indigent defense.

Thank you,

Emily Thomasson
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