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**Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025 8:35:30 AM

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**From:** Mick Woynarowski <mick@mwwdefense.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 8:00 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for amendments to appellate standards for indigent defense

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Good morning,

I am writing in support of the return to the 25-appeal standard for indigent appellate defense. See STANDARDS FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE Rules CrR 3.1/CrRLJ 3.1/JuCR 9.2 Stds.

I have been practicing fulltime as a criminal defense lawyer in Washington State since 2002. I have been trial counsel, appellate counsel, and post-conviction counsel. For part of my career, I was an appellate public defender with the Washington Appellate Project. I am familiar with the workload required to try a Class A felony case, to prepare a direct appeal from one, and to seek post-conviction relief.

The complexity of the cases that appellate defenders currently work on is significant, in terms of the facts and procedural history, as well as the legal issues involved.

Especially in these post-pandemic times, where jurisdictions have been resolving a backlog of most serious cases, the matters appellate defenders are required to work on are time-consuming and involve high stakes. It is utterly unworkable for them to churn out 3 briefs a month, certainly not cogent briefs that raise all viable claims and do so in a persuasive fashion.

The right to a direct appeal is an important one. The Court should protect that right, including for indigent defendants, by returning the appellate defender standard down to 25 cases a year. Even that may be too many, but this would be a move in the right direction.

Sincerely,  
Mick Woynarowski  
WSBA #32801

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