

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPELLATE
CASELOAD STANDARDS FOR INDIGENT
DEFENSE UNDER CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, AND JuCR
9.2

ORDER

NO. 25700-A-1657

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the Council on Public Defense (CPD) have recommended reducing, on an interim basis, the caseload standards for public defense appeals pursuant to the Standards for Indigent Defense under CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, and JuCR 9.2. WSBA and CPD have proposed an interim reduction in the appellate caseload standards from 36 appeals per attorney per year to 25 appeals per attorney per year, pending the completion of an appellate workload study.

The Court published this proposal for comment in January 2025, with a comment deadline of April 30, 2025. Having reviewed the proposal and the comments received, the Court finds that an interim reduction in the appellate caseload standards is warranted pending the completion of an appellate workload study. A majority of the Court has voted for an interim reduction of the appellate caseload standards to 30 appeals per attorney per year.

Now therefore, it is hereby ORDERED:

(a) Until further order of the Court, the caseload of a full-time public defense attorney or assigned counsel pursuant to the Standards for Indigent Defense under CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1,

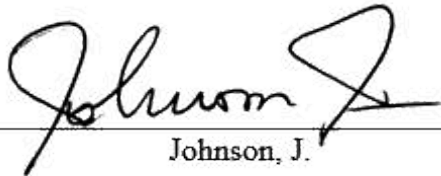
ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPELLATE CASELOAD STANDARDS FOR INDIGENT
DEFENSE UNDER CrR 3.1, CrRLJ 3.1, AND JuCR 9.2

and JuCR 9.2 shall not exceed 30 appeals to an appellate court hearing a case on the record and briefs per attorney per year. Rule amendments concerning this interim reduction in the appellate caseload standards will be issued in the near future, once the Court's review of all pending proposed amendments to the Standards for Indigent Defense is complete.

(b) This order will be published in the Washington Reports and will take effect immediately.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 5th day of September, 2025.



Johnson, J.



Madsen, J.



CHIEF JUSTICE



Yu, J.



Mungia, J.