



Washington State
**Office of
 Public
 Defense**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

--
 March 13, 2025
 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89004590683?pwd=R3JrdE9UYjU1UVhFYzZBWEIjVTZ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 890 0459 0683

Passcode: OPD23!

AGENDA

CONTENT	PG #	PRESENTER	START TIME	DUR.
1. Call to Order	n/a	Chair Lee	10:05 AM	1 min.
2. Chair's Report	n/a	Chair Lee	10:06 AM	10 min.
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 2024	2-5	Committee Members	10:16 AM	1 min.
4. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency Operations Update • New Staff Members 	6-9	Dir. Jefferson	10:17 AM	10 min.
5. Vote on Court Reporter Page Rate Increase	10-32	Deputy Dir. Byrd McSherry and Ms. Marjie Jackson	10:27 AM	5 min.
6. Legislative/Budget Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Fiscal Chairs • 25-26 Bill Report 	33-36	Deputy Dir. Byrd McSherry	10:32 AM	15 min.
7. Public Comments	n/a	Public and Committee Members	10:47 AM	2 min. per person
8. Adjourn	n/a	Committee Members	10:57 AM	1 min

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024
10:00 AM

DRAFT

QUARTERLY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Annie Lee, Chair
Robert Flennaugh II
Jana Heyd
Ret. Judge Rich Melnick
Sen. Jesse Salomon

Jim Chambers
Rep. Roger Goodman
Comm. Tye Menser
Ann Christian
Sheila Gall

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sen. Mike Padden

OPD STAFF PRESENT

Larry Jefferson
Sophia Byrd McSherry
Molly Fraser
Kalea Sciacotta
Gideon Newmark
Chris Graves
Debbie Coplen
Geoff Hulsey
Ryan Siu
Darren Acoba
Liz Mustin
Grace O'Connor

Christopher Grande
Brett Ballew
Kelly Canary
Jason Aguero
Jonathan Patnode
Kaitlyn Baker
Katrin Johnson
Kui Hug
Aaron Seda
Lei Young
Shoshana Kehoe Ehlers
Julia Newbold

GUESTS PRESENT

Judge Joseph Evans
Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair
Judge Maureen McKee
Christie Hedman, Executive Director of the
Washington Defender Association (WDA)
Heather Cantamessa, Director of Family Impact
for Akin
Sara Robbins, Director of the Washington State
Office of Civil Legal Aid

Charles Longshore, JDA Coalition
Izzy Eads, JDA Coalition
Kim Gordon, JDA Coalition
Paul Benz, JDA Coalition
Marjie Jackson, Court Reporters Association
Seth Davidson, OPD Contractor
Jacob Schmitt, OPD Contractor

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The meeting was held via Zoom video conference. The Chair welcomed the committee and directed Ms. Fraser to take a roll call. Ms. Fraser confirmed 8 committee members are in attendance. 2 committee members joined after the roll was called (Ms. Gall at 10:08 AM and Sen. Salomon at 10:13 AM).

CHAIR'S REPORT

Overview of Housekeeping

The Chair reviewed housekeeping for the day's agenda items. She specifically highlighted that the JDA presentation will be recorded for the benefit of those who cannot attend. The remainder of the meeting will not be recorded.

ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Moscoso made a motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Heyd. Discussion? No. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Increases

OPD has gone up to 67 FTEs as of December 2024. The agency continues to grow and thrive in implementing the programs that the legislature has assigned.

State Supreme Court En Banc Regarding Standards

The En Banc meeting concluded yesterday with no decision having been made on the indigent defense standards. The Court has continued the matter to their February 26, 2025 meeting.

Appellate Caseloads

OPD continues to work on recruiting and retaining appellate contractors. One of our contractors cited the RPCs as a reason for not being able to take on another case, and we are working with them to form a plan for when they can return to taking cases. OPD anticipates this will be an increasingly common citation and is working to identify ways we can prevent further delays and ensure representation for indigent individuals in appeals cases.

Budget Deficit

OPD is looking to the current fiscal year to identify reductions. The agency is examining opportunities for adjustments to our internal operations and decision packages to determine where we can accommodate adjustments.

BUDGET FOLLOW UP

Submission of OPD Decision Packages

Deputy Director for Government Relations McSherry noted that OPD's decision packages have been submitted. They can be viewed on OPD's website [here](#).

Chair Lee makes a formal motion that the committee provide a letter of support for the OPD budget request to submit to legislature, as has been the procedure in previous years. Ms. Heyd seconds. No Discussion. All in favor. None Opposed.

PRESENTATION - JUDICIAL DISCRETION ACT

Mr. Longshore, Judge McKee, Ms. Eads, and Ms. Gordon presented on the Judicial Discretion Act.

PRESENTATION - COURT REPORTERS

Ms. Jackson presented on a page rate increase for court reporters and transcriptionists. This has not been adjusted in 5 years and is making due process difficult due to economic challenges with maintaining the current rate. Currently, reporters and transcriptionists are having to request extensions on cases because they cannot cover the cost under the indigent defense rate compared to the regular page rate compared to other civil and criminal cases. Deputy Director Byrd McSherry provided background on the process to affect this change. Chair Lee recommended reviewing the matter at the March meeting once the committee has time to review the materials Ms. Jackson has referenced in her presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Lee asked for public comments. None arose.

BREAK FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee breaks for executive session at 11:25 AM for the purposes of discussing the OPD Director's Salary Adjustment.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee returns from executive session at 12:10 PM after discussing the OPD Director's Salary Adjustment. Mr. Chambers makes motion to adjust Director Jefferson's salary by 7.5% to \$189,811. This adjustment will be retroactive to July 1, 2024. Mr. Chambers adds to the motion that the committee will develop a formalized evaluation process and procedure, and will be conducting an independent study to help inform the committee on recommendations for future salary adjustments and evaluate the cost impacts of the salary adjustments. Mr. Chambers made the motion. Mr. Moscoso seconded. Discussion? No. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. 2 members left prior to the vote (Rep. Goodman and Sen. Salomon). Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair welcomed a motion to adjourn. Mr. Chambers made the motion. Mr. Moscoso seconded. Discussion? No. All in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

DRAFT



Washington State
**Office of
 Public
 Defense**

**Quarterly Program
 Updates
 Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2024**

Simple Possession and Representation (SPAR) Program

SPAR supports public defense work in courts of limited jurisdiction related to the drug possession offenses created by the 2023 Legislature in [Second Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5536](#). SPAR administers and disburses funds to cities and counties for public defense representation and consultation on these charges.

Quarterly update:

- \$189,670 – amount reimbursed to participating cities and counties.
- 371 – drug-related cases that were reimbursed.
- 39 – recipient city and county jurisdictions.
- 111 – individuals represented by OPD contract attorneys.

Public Defense Improvement Program

OPD distributes supplemental funding for county and city public defense services under [RCW 10.101](#). Staff also provide critical resource support to public defenders and public defense administrators to promote competent public defense services.

Quarterly update:

- Two site visits – City of Yakima, and Kittitas County.
- 34 quarterly city reports received and reviewed.
- 39 new county grant agreements executed (\$5.8 million) for use in 2025.
- 40 technical assistance requests covering 14 distinct topics. The most commonly asked questions include how to file complaints, and where to find lists of conflict attorneys.

Youth Access to Counsel (YAC) Program

OPD provides statewide, on-demand legal consultation services to youth who are asked by law enforcement to waive certain constitutional rights. [RCW 13.40.740](#).

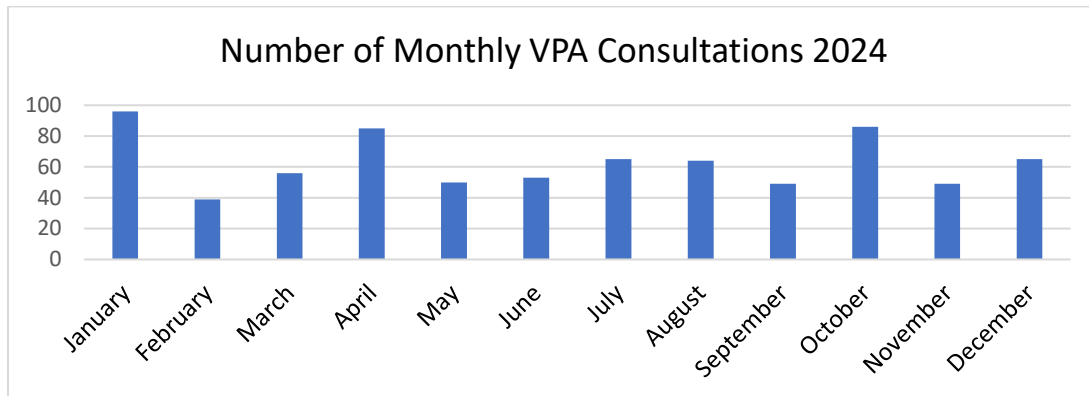
Quarterly update:

- 530 telephonic consultations.
- Geographic origins of the calls - 110 law enforcement agencies across 30 counties.
- 70% of calls were answered by the first-tier attorney, and in less than one minute.

- 20 trial level attorneys sought information from OPD about calls pertaining to the youth they represent.

Parents Representation Program – Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) Legal Consultation Hotline

The VPA Program allows parents, guardians, and legal custodians who are being offered VPAs to receive legal consultation, and support prior to making the important decision to agree or not to agree to the removal of their child. The VPA Hotline launched on January 1, 2024.



RCW 71.09 Civil Commitment

OPD contracts with attorneys and social workers to represent individuals who have a right to legal counsel in civil commitment proceedings under [Chapter 71.09 RCW](#) and create viable paths to release through discharge planning.

Quarterly update:

- Four initial commitment petitions were filed and assigned counsel.
- One case was dismissed and two release plans were submitted.
- 149 individuals received support from a defense social worker, including: advocacy, mitigation, referral services, limited crisis intervention, and/or release planning.

RCW 10.77 Post Commitment Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI)

OPD provides attorney and social worker representation to system-involved individuals with a right to counsel after being committed pursuant to a finding of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity, continuing until they are unconditionally released from court jurisdiction.

Quarterly update:

- Four new cases were received and assigned counsel.
- Six people were unconditionally released and six release plans were submitted.

- 135 individuals received support from a defense social worker, including: advocacy, mitigation, referral services, limited crisis intervention, and/or release planning.

Trial Level Training Program

OPD's Trial Level Training Program delivers the semi-annual Criminal Defense Training Academy for newly practicing attorneys, SPAR trainings for attorneys representing individuals on simple possession cases, and no-cost regional trainings for public defenders in various geographic regions.

Trainings this Quarter:

- Criminal Defense Training Academy – Ellensburg.
- Team Mitigation Institute – Seattle – in collaboration with the National Association of Public Defenders.
- Working with Social Workers to Maximize your Defense – Virtual.
- Appellate Training Academy – Olympia.

Recruitment and Retention Team

The newly team was created in Fall 2024 to address a shortage of public defenders statewide and a recognition of the need to attract more new lawyers into public defense, and to provide support to encourage experienced public defenders to remain in public defense. The team formed, created materials for its new Rural Public Defense Fellowship Program (which places Rule 9 Interns in rural PD offices) and engaged in outreach with all three of Washington's law schools and some in neighboring Oregon. In order to create a strong program, the team met with and gathered information from public defense leaders in other states and throughout Washington. Next quarter the team hopes to provide updates on more school engagements, selection and placement of state-funded legal interns, and other program updates.

Postconviction Program

[Senate Bill 5046](#) in the 2023 Legislature provides limited funding to represent clients filing personal restraint petition. Priority is given to applicants who are under age 25, have 120+ month sentences, have a disability that interferes with their ability to file a personal restraint petition on their own, or have limited ability to read or write English.

Quarterly update:

- 101 – applications received for personal restraint petitions.
- 14 – individuals assigned counsel for PRPs.

Blake Defense Program

OPD provides resources to help state and local agencies respond to the 2021 Blake decision, which allows courts to vacate old simple drug possession convictions, and resentence if appropriate. Resources include grant funding to counties, contract attorneys for direct representation, data-gathering, case-level analysis, and information for the public.

Data from July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024:

- 809 phone calls seeking information and assistance.
- OPD contractors represented clients on 563 conviction vacates, and 13 re-sentencings.
- Staff triaged court records for 1,351 Blake-eligible incarcerated individuals.
- Outreach educational visits to six prisons.
- “Blake Relief Day” in Snohomish County on October 4. A collaborative multi-agency public event for people to easily remove drug convictions from their criminal records.

Disproportionality Advocacy Program

OPD dedicates a team to provide expertise and resources to address issues that cause disproportionate harm to public defense clients statewide. The team provides independent and collaborative training around race and disproportionality, engages in policy work, maintains a [website](#) with 200+ resources, and provides mapping and data support for internal and external groups.

Quarterly update:

- Participated in four trainings in collaboration with the Trial Level Training Program.
- Provided monthly support to defense practitioners regarding race and disproportionality issues.
- Initiated monthly meetings to discuss data support.

To: OPD Advisory Committee

From: Sophia Byrd McSherry, Deputy Director for Government Relations

Date: March 13, 2025

Re: Court Reporters Association Requests Increase in the Indigent Transcription Rate

Background

OPD-contracted appellate attorneys require transcripts of trial proceedings in order to prepare appeals for indigent clients. The Washington Supreme Court establishes by General Order the maximum per-page rate that court reporters and transcriptionists may charge OPD for transcripts for indigent appeals. [RAP 15.04\(d\)\(1\)](#).

“(d) Invoice of Court Reporter or Authorized Transcriptionist. (1) An invoice submitted by the court reporter or authorized transcriptionist should be titled "Invoice of Court Reporter or Authorized Transcriptionist--Indigent Case." The invoice must state the number of pages transcribed and the billing rate per page. *The billing rate must be at the rate per page or line page equivalent set by the Supreme Court ...*”

The Request

The Washington State Court Reporters Association (proponents) propose an increase in the per-page rate for indigent appellate transcription from \$3.65 per page to \$4.80. (*See attached letter dated March 3, 2025, which amends their prior request.*) Proponents are asking the OPD Advisory Committee to submit a recommendation for approval to the Supreme Court. The Court last increased the indigent transcription rate in 2018.

Proponents support their request with data on indigent transcript rates in the federal courts, as well as market rates charged in private cases. The current federal rate is \$4.40 per page, and private cases typically pay \$6.25- \$6.50 per page. Proponents further cite Washington state’s high minimum wage and cost of living in support of their requested increase.

Estimated Cost

OPD projects a biennial cost of \$865,000 to implement the proposed per-page rate of \$4.80.

Timeline

- October 11, 2024 -- Proponents submit their original request to OPD.
- October 17, 2024 -- OPD director sends a letter to the Supreme Court recommending adoption of the requested rate increase.
- November 7, 2024 – Chief Justice asks the OPD Advisory Committee to review the request, noting that previous rate increases were recommended by the Advisory Committee.
- December 5, 2024 -- Advisory Committee hears a presentation by the Court Reporters Association and refers the issue for a vote at the March 2025 meeting.
- March 3, 2025 – Proponents submit letter adjusting their request to \$4.80 per page.

Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
 Court-Approved Transcription
 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101-183
 Seattle, Washington 98104
 206.624.3005

March 3, 2025

Attn: Gideon S. Newmark
 WA State Office of Public Defense
 PO Box 40957
 Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Transcript Page Rate / Request for Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Newmark and other interested parties,

This letter is an amendment to the first letter written on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers court approved to provide verbatim reports of proceeding for appellate purposes. Together with the Washington State Court Reporters Association, we would respectfully request the legislature to approve and pass an Indigent Page Rate increase to **4.80/page** from the current rate of 3.65/ page, which was enacted in August of 2019. We are amending this request because comparing page rates between other states is not applicable, as each state has different margin and format requirements, thus affecting the number of pages produced. However, the Federal rates that apply to all states also require a uniform page format, which we all follow and which is also compatible with the Washington Administrative Code. We suggest that you use the Federal rate as a starting point to consider a page rate increase, but also consider the following:

1. The Federal Indigent page rate has seen significant increases in the last two years. **The current Federal rate is 4.40/page.**
2. Based on cost-of-living studies, Washington state is consistently ranked in the top ten most expensive states in the county and, therefore, should be a higher rate than the Federal rate, which is based on a national average.
3. The minimum wage in Washington is the highest in the country.
4. Using the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries yearly COLA increase table, the page rate would currently be **4.93/page if the rate of 3.65/page were increased year to year.**
5. The current rate of 3.65/page is well below the average transcript page rate for private appeals, which is 6.00 to 6.50/page.
6. Criminal Defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

Thank you again for your urgent consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,



Marjie Jackson, CET
 Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC

Court Reporter Page Rate Increase

—

December 2024 Materials



**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

Larry Jefferson, Director

Email: opd@opd.wa.gov

(360) 586-3164
FAX (360) 586-8165

October 17, 2024

Honorable Chief Justice Steven C. González
Washington Supreme Court
243 Israel Rd. SE
Town Center East Building 3 First Floor
Tumwater, WA 98501-6415

Re: RAP 15.4(d)(1) Appellate Court Reporter/Transcriptionist Indigent Rate

Dear Chief Justice González and the Justices of the Supreme Court:

On behalf of the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD), I am writing with the urgent request that you approve an increase in the per-page rate for transcripts in indigent appeals, as provided in the Rules of Appellate Procedure 15.4(d)(1). The rate has not increased since 2018, even as living costs have increased dramatically.

OPD received the enclosed detailed request from the Washington Court Reporters Association and several highly regarded court reporters and transcriptionists. They are asking that the indigent rate be increased from \$3.65 per page to \$4.95, bringing it in line with industry standards for this vital work. The request is further supported by several top appellate firms who report first-hand that it is becoming more and more difficult to find transcriptionists at the current rate.

OPD further requests expedited consideration of this matter, to make it possible to seek legislative appropriation in the upcoming 2025-2027 biennial budget. The proposed rate increase will cost approximately \$904,589 for the next biennium. OPD believes that a competitive transcript rate will help avert increased delays in indigent appeals, thus advancing timely relief for indigent clients with meritorious claims as well as finality for victims in cases where relief is denied.

With gratitude,

Larry Jefferson
Director

Washington State Office of Public Defense

Enclosures: Proposed Order for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase
Request for Indigent Transcript Rate Increase

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE SETTING
OF THE TRANSCRIPTION RATE
PURSUANT TO RAP 15.4(d)(1)

ORDER

NO. _____

The Court on _____, considered the recommendation by the Office of Public Defense (OPD) to increase the per page rate for preparation of verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases to be increased. The Court determined that a \$1.30 per page increase to \$4.95 per page, contingent on the Legislature appropriating funds for the increase.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

1. That pursuant to RAP 15.4(d)(1), the billing rate for the preparation of the original and one copy of a verbatim report of proceedings for indigent review cases, where an appropriate order of indigency has been entered, is hereby increased to \$4.95 per page.

2. That the new per page rate of \$4.95 will be implemented by OPD upon the legislative appropriation of adequate funds to the OPD budget.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this ____ day of _____, 20XX.

For the Court

CHIEF JUSTICE

Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC
 Court-Approved Transcription
 800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 101-183
 Seattle, Washington 98104
 206.624.3005

October 11, 2024

Attn: Gideon S. Newmark
 WA State Office of Public Defense
 PO Box 40957
 Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Transcript Page Rate / Request for Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Newmark and other interested parties,

I am writing this letter on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers court approved to provide verbatim reports of proceeding for appellate purposes. Together with the Washington State Court Reporters Association, we would respectfully request the legislature to approve and pass an Indigent Page Rate increase to 4.95/page from the current rate of 3.65/ page, which was enacted in August of 2019.

The reasons for our request are the following:

1. The Federal Indigent page rate has seen significant increases in the last two years. Starting in January of 2025, the rate will be 4.40/page for a 30 day turnaround.
2. Based on cost-of-living studies, Washington state is consistently ranked in the top ten most expensive states in the country. The Washington state minimum wage is the *highest in the county*. Our state indigent page rate should be a higher rate than the Federal rate, which is based on a national average.
3. Other states, including Utah and Florida have recently significantly increased their Indigent page rates.
4. Using the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries yearly COLA increase table, the page rate would currently be 4.93/page if the rate of 3.65/page were increased year to year.
5. The current rate of 3.65/page is well below the average transcript page rate for private appeals, which is 6.25 to 6.50/page.
6. Criminal Defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

Attached please find documentation supporting this urgent request.

Very truly yours,



Marjie Jackson, CET
 Reed Jackson Watkins, LLC



WASHINGTON

COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Gideon S. Newmark
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia WA 98504-0957

Dear Mr. Newmark,

I am writing on behalf of the Washington Court Reporters Association in strong support of the request to increase the indigent page rate for court reporters and transcribers in Washington State. The current rate of \$3.65 per page, established in 2019, is significantly below both the federal rate and that of many other states. With the federal rate rising to \$4.40 per page in 2025 and other states such as Utah, Florida, and Minnesota already making similar adjustments, Washington's current rate needs to be updated to reflect the realities of cost and quality in our field.

Washington is consistently ranked among the most expensive states in the nation. Given this high cost of living, our current indigent rate does not adequately compensate reporters for their expertise and dedication. An increase to \$4.95 per page would not only align us with industry standards but also help ensure that skilled professionals remain available to produce accurate and timely transcripts. Without this adjustment, we risk negatively impacting access to justice for those who rely on these services the most.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Gwen Brass, CA CSR 5784, WA CCR 1908
WCRA President



1511 Third Ave, Suite 610
Seattle, WA 98101
206-587-2711
www.washapp.org

November 26, 2024

Re: Court Reporters

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust the page rate for transcription of proceedings in indigent cases.

Our firm has specialized in the indigent appellate practice for over 30 years. Criminal defense attorneys have had an increasingly hard time finding reporters and transcribers willing to prepare their verbatim reports due to the low page rate, which, in turn, negatively impacts the due process rights of criminal defendants.

We believe that a rate increase would greatly help in increasing the field of available transcriptionists who can provide reliable and efficient work and would be willing to take on indigent defense transcription.

Our office supports this proposal.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory C. Link".

Gregory C. Link, Director
Attorney at Law - WSBA 25228

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria A Riley".

Maria A Riley, Office Manager

cc: Marjie Jackson
Reed Jackson Watkins
jackson@rjwtranscripts.com



October 3, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
Washington State Office of Public Defense
P.O. Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

My name is Lisa Buell, and I am the owner of Buell Realtime Reporting, a locally owned litigation support firm that has proudly supported the Pacific Northwest legal community for over 27 years.

I am writing to you on behalf of all court reporters and transcribers across Washington State to formally request the legislature approve and pass an indigent page rate increase to \$4.95 per page. The current rate of \$3.65 per page, which was enacted in 2019, does not reflect the increased cost of living, labor, and the demands of our profession.

Washington State is consistently ranked as one of the most expensive states to live in, and the current rate of \$3.65 per page makes it increasingly difficult for professionals in our field to maintain the high standards of accuracy that the justice system relies on.

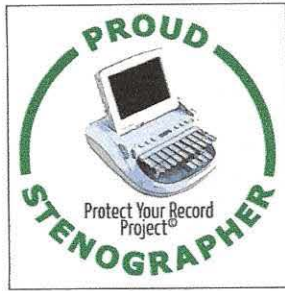
As a past president of the Washington Court Reporters Association, I can confirm that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request to raise the Indigent page rate to \$4.95 per page.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Buell".

Lisa Buell



Jennifer Pollino, CCR #2221, RPR,
 Official Reporter Skagit County Superior Court
 205 W. Kincaid Street
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273
 jencpollino@gmail.com
 360-416-1215

September 28, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
 Washington State Office of Public Defense
 P.O. Box 40957
 Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

I am an official court reporter of 21 years in Skagit County Superior Court. Our caseloads have increased, which in turn results in many more trials, and most, if not all, of the defendants are indigent. Since I am on the record reporting in court almost every day, the only time to work on appeal transcripts is my off time at home and on the weekends.

With the cost of living increases, my court reporting expenses, and the caseload volume, it is time that our rates increase as well. I am requesting that the page rate be increased from \$3.65/page to \$4.95/page.

As the Past President of the Washington State Court Reporters Association, I can attest that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pollino, WA CCR, RPR

WCRA Past President

Official Court Reporter Skagit County Superior Court



Tammey McMaster

Official Court Reporter, CCR No. 2751
930 Tacoma Avenue South, 334
Tacoma, Washington 98402
tammeymc@gmail.com

September 30, 2024

Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
Washington State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Indigent Appeal Page Rates

Dear Mr. Newmark,

Please let this letter serve as notice of my support, along with that of Ms. Marjie Jackson and all interested reporters in our state, in our collective request for a page-rate increase.

I am currently an official in Pierce County Superior Court. Before arriving in Pierce County, I was an official in Spokane County for nearly 20 years. In that time, I have experienced increased caseloads, translating to an increase in appellate transcripts.

Due to increases in every aspect of our lives (living, expenses, volume) etc., page rates must also increase. I am requesting a new rate of \$4.95/page. Due to the numerous orders/deadlines it usually necessitates requests for extensions. I mention this because I believe the time and effort put into our pages merits this request. When compared, the hours, in combination with the current page rate, translate to minimal compensation.

Thank you so much for your consideration and attention to this request. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated by me and my colleagues.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance to aid in this request.

Sincerely,

Tammey McMaster

Official Court Reporter
Pierce County Super Court

Holly M. Draper, RPR, CCR
Washington CCR No. 1976
Spokane County Superior Court
1116 W. Broadway Avenue, Dept. 2
Spokane, WA 99260
(509) 477-4417
HDraper@Spokanecounty.org

September 27, 2024

TO: Gideon S. Newmark, Esq.
WA State Office of Public Defense
PO Box 40957
Olympia, WA 98504-0957

Re: Washington State Indigent Appeals/page rates

Dear Office of Public Defense, Washington State Supreme Court Justices, Legislators, and/or other interested parties:

I am an official court reporter in and for Spokane County Superior Court. I produce transcripts from indigent appeals routinely in my role and respectfully request that the page rate be increased from \$3.65/page to \$4.95/page. The rate increase would help to maintain a working relationship with scopists and proofreaders who assist me in producing timely transcripts while I am busy working in the courtroom.

As the current Vice President of the Washington State Court Reporters Association, I can attest that we have been working with Marjie Jackson in gathering the facts and data that she has included in her letter, and I support and join in her request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Draper, RPR
WA CR No. 1976



The Denny Building
2200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1250
Seattle, Washington 98121

Phone: (206) 623-2373
www.nwattorney.net

October 1, 2024

RE: *Indigent Transcription Pay Increase*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing for indigent cases. I have been working with indigent appeals for 30 plus years.

Although the process of finding a transcriber for indigent cases has never been easy, the process has gradually gotten worse over time. When we do find someone willing to take on our transcription work, they are usually very busy and need to request extensions to complete the work.

My hope in the success of this increase is that more transcribers would be interested in taking this indigent work reducing delays by spreading the burden more evenly.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Sloane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Sloane
Office Manager
Nielsen Koch and Grannis PLLC

Backlund & Mistry

Attorneys at Law

Jodi R. Backlund

Manek R. Mistry

October 11, 2024

Sent to Marjie Jackson

Reed Jackson Watkins

Via email

Re: *Court reporters*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing for indigent cases. I am an appellate attorney who only takes court-appointed cases. Over the last couple of years, it has become increasingly difficult for us to find qualified people to transcribe hearings on our cases. When we do find someone willing to work on our cases, they are usually very busy and delays are almost a foregone conclusion.

Anything that can be done to improve this situation for our clients would be appreciated, including a rate increase.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Backlund & Mistry



Jodi R. Backlund

Attorney at Law

LAW OFFICES OF LISE ELLNER, PLLC
P.O. BOX 2711
VASHON, WA 98070
Liseellnerlaw@comcast.net

September 30, 2024

Re: *Court reporters*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the Court Reporters Association's request to adjust pay for work done transcribing indigent cases. I have practiced in the indigent appellate field for over 30 years. The current pool of experienced and qualified transcriptionist is shrinking and inadequate to meet the volume of cases we are being asked to handle.

The few individuals and firms that provide reliable and efficient work- are usually very busy and delays ensue.

To keep the indigent defense justice system working, to maintain the current professionals willing to take indigent work and to increase the field of available transcriptionists, a rate increase is essential. My firm, and my clients support this proposal.

Thank you. Respectfully,



Lise Ellner
Attorney at Law
WSBA 20955

Cc: Marjie Jackson
Reed Jackson Watkins
Marjie Jackson <jackson@rjwtranscripts.com>

Minimum Wage by State	Value	Rank
Alabama	\$7.25	1 st
Georgia	\$7.25	1 st
Idaho	\$7.25	1 st
Indiana	\$7.25	1 st
Iowa	\$7.25	1 st
Kansas	\$7.25	1 st
Kentucky	\$7.25	1 st
Louisiana	\$7.25	1 st
Mississippi	\$7.25	1 st
New Hampshire	\$7.25	1 st
North Carolina	\$7.25	1 st
North Dakota	\$7.25	1 st
Oklahoma	\$7.25	1 st
Pennsylvania	\$7.25	1 st
South Carolina	\$7.25	1 st
Tennessee	\$7.25	1 st
Texas	\$7.25	1 st
Utah	\$7.25	1 st
Wisconsin	\$7.25	1 st
Wyoming	\$7.25	1 st
West Virginia	\$8.75	21 st
Montana	\$10.30	22 nd
Michigan	\$10.33	23 rd
Ohio	\$10.45	24 th
Minnesota	\$10.85	25 th
Arkansas	\$11.00	26 th
South Dakota	\$11.20	27 th
Nevada	\$11.25	28 th
Alaska	\$11.73	29 th
Florida	\$12.00	30 th
Nebraska	\$12.00	30 th
New Mexico	\$12.00	30 th
Virginia	\$12.00	30 th
Missouri	\$12.30	34 th
Delaware	\$13.25	35 th
Vermont	\$13.67	36 th
Hawaii	\$14.00	37 th
Illinois	\$14.00	37 th
Rhode Island	\$14.00	37 th
Maine	\$14.15	40 th
Oregon	\$14.20	41 st
Arizona	\$14.35	42 nd
Colorado	\$14.42	43 rd
Maryland	\$15.00	44 th
Massachusetts	\$15.00	44 th
New York	\$15.00	44 th
New Jersey	\$15.13	47 th
Connecticut	\$15.69	48 th
California	\$16.00	49 th
Washington	\$16.28	50 th

History of Minimum Wage in Washington State

Effective date	Minimum wage per hour
January 1, 2024	\$16.28
January 1, 2023	\$15.74
January 1, 2022	\$14.49
January 1, 2021	\$13.69
January 1, 2020	\$13.50
January 1, 2019	\$12.00

These are the top 10 most expensive states to live in based on monthly costs:

- 1. Hawaii**
- 2. California**
- 3. Massachusetts**
- 4. New Jersey**
- 5. Maryland**
- 6. Washington**
- 7. New York**
- 8. Connecticut**
- 9. Colorado**
- 10. New Hampshire**

Rank	State	Total Yearly Cost of Living
1	Hawaii	\$55,491
2	Massachusetts	\$53,860
3	California	\$53,171
4	New York	\$49,623
5	New Jersey	\$49,511
6	Alaska	\$48,670
7	Maryland	\$48,235
8	Washington	\$47,231
9	Connecticut	\$46,912
10	Oregon	\$46,193
	U.S. Average	\$40,466

YEAR	COLA Increase
2024	5.9% 4.93
2023	2.01% 4.66
2022	7.51% 4.57
2021	10.1% 4.28
2020	6.73% 3.89

Service Type	FY 2023-24 Rate	FY 2024-25 Rate	
Deposition Appearance Fees – 1 st Hour	\$75	\$75	
Deposition Appearance Fees – 2 nd + Hours	\$25	\$50	
Deposition Transcript – Regular Delivery		\$4.00/page	\$5.95/page
Deposition Transcript – 5 Day Delivery		\$5.50/page	\$7.95/page
Deposition Transcript – 24 Hour Delivery		\$7.50/page	\$10.95/page
Deposition Transcript – Copies		\$0.50/page	\$2.00/page
Hearing Transcript – Regular Delivery	\$5.00/page	\$7.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – 5 Day Delivery	\$6.50/page	\$10.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – 24 Hour Delivery	\$8.50/page	\$13.95/page	
Hearing Transcript – Copies	\$0.50/page	\$2.00/page	
Transcription Recording – Page Rate*	\$3.00/page	\$6.50/page	
Transcription Recording – Listening Fee*	\$35/hour	\$50/hour	
*Whichever is Greater			

It is through the diligent and hard work of the Government Relations Committee that this long-overdue increase is now a reality for court reporters in Florida.

THIS is what your Florida Court Reporters Association has been doing for you!

Index Utah CodeTitle 78A Judiciary and Judicial AdministrationChapter 2 Judicial AdministrationPart 4 Court Reporter Act**Section 408** **Transcripts and copies -- Fees.**
*(Effective 5/1/2024)**Effective 5/1/2024***78A-2-408. Transcripts and copies -- Fees.**

- (1) The Judicial Council shall by rule provide for a standard page format for transcripts of court proceedings.
- (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsections (2)(c), (2)(e), and (2)(g), the base rate for a transcript of a court session, or any part of a court session, may not be more than:
- (i) \$6.00 per page for the body of the transcript, which includes the initial preparation of the transcript and one certified copy; plus
 - (ii) \$0.50 per page for the word index.
- (b) The preparer shall:
- (i) deposit the original text file with the clerk of the court by means of an approved electronic filing service provider; and
 - (ii) provide the person requesting the transcript with an electronic certified copy.
- (c) The cost of additional copies of the transcript shall be \$0.50 per page.
- (d) The transcript for an appeal shall be prepared within the time period permitted by the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (e) The fee for a transcript that is guaranteed to be prepared:
- (i) within one business day of the request shall be double the base rate;
 - (ii) within three business days of the request shall be 1.75 times the base rate;
 - (iii) within one calendar week shall be 1.5 times the base rate; and
 - (iv) within two calendar weeks shall be 1.25 times the base rate.
- (f) Payment for a transcript under this section is the responsibility of the party requesting the transcript, except for a court ordered transcript as provided in Subsection (3)(a), and the time for production of the transcript begins once financial arrangements are made with the certified court transcriber.
- (g) Child welfare cases shall be billed at the two calendar week rate to meet the deadlines of the Utah Appellate Courts.
- (3) (a) When a transcript is ordered by the court, the fees shall be paid by the parties to the action in equal proportion or as ordered by the court.
- (b) The fee for a transcript in a criminal case in which the defendant is found to be an indigent individual, as defined in Section 78B-22-102, shall be paid in accordance with Subsection 78B-22-203(3).

Federal Indigent Rate Schedule

**New Original and Copy Transcript Fee Rates
(Effective Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025)**

Original Transcript Rates

Transcript Types	Original Rate	Increased Rate Fiscal Year 2024	Increased Rate Fiscal Year 2025
Ordinary Transcript (30-day)	\$3.65	\$4.00	\$4.40
14-Day Transcript	\$4.25	\$4.70	\$5.10
Expedited Transcript (7-day)	\$4.85	\$5.35	\$5.85
3-Day Transcript	\$5.45	\$6.00	\$6.55
Daily Transcript	\$6.05	\$6.70	\$7.30
Hourly Transcript	\$7.25	\$8.00	\$8.70
Realtime Transcript	One feed, \$3.05 per page; two-to-four feeds, \$2.10 per page; five or more feeds, \$1.50 per page.	One Feed, \$3.40; two-to-four feeds, \$2.35; five or more feeds, \$1.65.	One Feed, \$3.70; two-to-four feeds, \$2.55; five or more feeds, \$1.80.

Copy Rates

Transcript Types	First Copy	Increased First Copy Fiscal Year 2024	Increased First Copy Fiscal Year 2025	Add'l Copy	Increased Add'l Copy Fiscal Year 2024	Increased Add'l Copy Fiscal Year 2025
Ordinary Transcript (30-day)	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
14-Day Transcript	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
Expedited Transcript (7-day)	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$.60	\$.70	\$.75
3-Day Transcript	\$1.05	\$1.20	\$1.30	\$.75	\$.85	\$.90
Daily Transcript	\$1.20	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10
Hourly Transcript	\$1.20	\$1.35	\$1.45	\$.90	\$1.00	\$1.10
Realtime Transcript	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE**

Larry Jefferson, Director

Email: opd@opd.wa.gov

(360) 586-3164
FAX (360) 586-8165

December 3, 2024

Representative Timm Ormsby, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator June Robinson, Chair
Senate Ways & Means Committee
John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Re: Budget Reductions and the Constitutional Right to Counsel

Dear Chairs Ormsby and Robinson:

I am writing regarding the State's projected budget shortfall and the need to examine agency spending. First, thank you for the progress you've supported at the Office of Public Defense (OPD) in recent years, and thank you for your leadership as we head into a difficult budget process.

As a matter of separation of powers, OPD, like other Judicial Branch agencies, is not participating in the current budget-cutting exercise among Executive Branch agencies. However, OPD is carefully examining its budget for potential under-expenditures in the current fiscal year as well as other efficiencies and savings that will not impact the constitutionally required right-to-counsel services, which comprise most of OPD's budget. We have already sent your staff information about projected savings for Fiscal Year 2025 and will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

Just as it has a constitutional obligation to fund basic education, the State also has a constitutional obligation to ensure the right to effective defense counsel for indigent persons charged with a crime, confronting removal of their children, facing civil commitment, or pursuing direct appeals in these types of matters. In addition to representation by a defense attorney, the right to counsel includes experts, investigators, access to court records, interpreters or translators, and related administrative services, which OPD must provide. The vast majority of OPD's budget is spent on client-services contracts and related obligations to ensure these services.

For example, OPD is responsible for ensuring the right to counsel in the following case types:

- **General/criminal:** Washington State helps provide adequate indigent defense counsel through OPD's Public Defense Improvement Program, which awards grants to counties and cities pursuant to Chapter 10.101 RCW. In addition, OPD provides funding assistance to help local governments resentencing and vacate unconstitutional convictions in response to *State v. Blake*, and to ensure public defense for new misdemeanor drug charges authorized in SB 5536.

Both the Washington State and U.S. constitutions require the State to guarantee adequate counsel to indigent defendants. U.S. Const. amend. VI; Wash. Const. art. I, § 22. In *State v. A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d 91 (2010), the Washington Supreme Court found that "Public funds for appointed counsel are sometimes woefully inadequate...[s]uch public contracts for public defenders discourage appropriate investigation...and trial preparation, and literally reward the public defender financially for every guilty plea the defender delivers." *Id.* at 98.

Even with the existing level of state investment to improve public defense, the Washington State Association of Counties is suing, alleging that the State is not doing enough to ensure constitutionally mandated adequate public defense in criminal cases. The American Civil Liberties Union is separately suing Yakima County for delayed appointment of counsel.

- **Parent representation in dependency and termination cases:** OPD’s Parents Representation Program -- the sole provider of parent representation statewide -- satisfies the right to counsel and reduces the need for foster care. Indigent parents have a constitutional right to appointed counsel of adequate quality in cases that remove children to foster care or permanently terminate parental rights. *See In re Luscier*, 84 Wn.2d 135, 137 (1974); *In re Myricks*, 85 Wn.2d 252 (1975); *In re J.D.*, 112 Wn.2d 164, 168 (1989). OPD also must provide forensic and other experts as appropriate to a specific case. An attorney may be found ineffective partially due to their inability to obtain an expert. *Dependency of V.R.R. v. DSHS*, 134 Wn. App. 573 (2006).

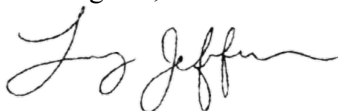
Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, about 18 percent of the amount the State spends on the Parents Representation Program is reimbursed by the federal government, on an ongoing basis. If reductions were to be imposed on the OPD program, the loss would equal \$1.18 for every \$1 of State General Funds cut.

- **Persons facing sex offender civil commitment under Chapter 71.09 RCW:** Respondents have a right to counsel in all phases the civil commitment process because they face a total loss of liberty for an indefinite period of time, often decades. *In re Young*, 122 Wn.2d 1 (1993) and *State v. McCuiston*, 174 Wn.2d 369 (May 3, 2012). In addition to providing counsel for these cases statewide, OPD also must pay for specialized defense experts, who provide constitutionally mandated representation services as provided by RCW 71.07.055. *In re Smith*, 117 Wn. App. 611 (2003); and *In re T.A.H.-L.*, 123 Wn. App. 172 (2004); *Ake v. Oklahoma*, 470 U.S. 68, 105 S. Ct. 1084, 84 L. Ed. 2d 53 (1985).
- **Persons civilly committed as “not guilty by reason of insanity” (NGRI):** The 2023 Legislature directed OPD to provide counsel for all post-commitment NGRI respondents, who have a right to counsel to file a petition for release. *State v. Fletcher*, 190 Wn.2d 219 (2018). Washington statutes extend this right for the duration of the term of NGRI commitment.
- **Right to counsel on direct appeal:** The U.S. and Washington constitutions and statutes guarantee the right to appeal a criminal conviction, as well as the right to appeal in other case types involving fundamental interests, such as dependencies and civil commitments. *Hendrix v. Rhay*, 56 Wn. 2d 420 (1960). The Legislature for decades has acknowledged the State’s obligation (*See RCW 10.73.150 Finding 1995*), which is satisfied through the Appellate Program.

Because of its central role in guaranteeing the right to counsel, OPD requests that it be held largely exempt from budget cuts. Substantial reductions would require OPD to cut constitutionally required services and potentially expose the state to liability.

As noted above, I have instructed my staff to pursue savings and efficiencies wherever possible, and we already have identified savings for the current fiscal year. I look forward to collaborating further with you and your staff during the upcoming session.

Best regards,



Larry Jefferson
Director

cc: Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and Committee Staff



**WASHINGTON STATE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Chair

Anne A. Lee
Supreme Court
Appointee

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Appointee

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Sen. Mike Padden
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Caucus Appointee

Sen. Jesse Salomon
Senate Democratic
Caucus Appointee

Jana Heyd
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Appointee

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Appointee

James Chambers
Office of the Governor
Appointee

January 10, 2025

Senator June Robinson, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
303 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40438
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Timm Ormsby, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
315 John L. O'Brien Bldg.
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chair Robinson and Chair Ormsby:

The Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) Advisory Committee has carefully vetted OPD's 2025 supplemental and 2025-2027 biennial decision packages, and we encourage the Legislature to fund these budget requests. We are cognizant of the projected state deficit and are committed to supporting efficiencies wherever possible at OPD. However, OPD is uniquely responsible for ensuring significant constitutional rights for Washingtonians, and the agency requires adequate and sustained funding to do so.

Over the summer and fall, Committee members reviewed proposals and advised the OPD Director in his budget development process. The Advisory Committee subsequently voted unanimously to endorse the agency's decision packages, which we believe efficiently and effectively implement the right to counsel for our state's most vulnerable people and marginalized communities. The budget requests are well-aligned with OPD's mission to uphold the rights of all people who are facing the loss of liberty or family by providing statewide leadership, administration, and support to the multidisciplinary public defense profession.

Among all of OPD's worthy policy-level budget requests, the agency has identified three top priorities, and the Advisory Committee endorses these areas of critical need:

1. Appellate Backlog -- \$2.19M in 2025 Supplemental and \$5.44M in 2025-2027 Biennial

- Supplemental funding is needed to cover costs associated with a growing backlog of appellate case assignments and increased workload in indigent appeals. To avoid a greater backlog and court delays, OPD added 11 FTE contract attorneys in FY 2025.
- The biennial funding will address higher appellate workload on an ongoing basis. Indigent appellate workload is based on trial transcript length, which averaged 800 pages between FY 2020 and FY 2023, but rose to an average 929 pages in FY 2024. Ninety-nine more case credits were assigned for long transcripts in FY 2024 than in FY 2023. Increased workload also is a result of more appointments of appellate counsel for children in dependency and termination cases on appeal.

Justice ♦ Service ♦ Equity ♦ Excellence

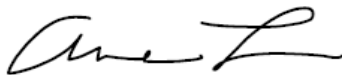
- 2. Simple Possession and Representation Advocacy (SPAR) -- \$15.7M in 2025-2027 Biennial Budget**
- The requested funding will allow OPD to continue state assistance for public defense representation in drug cases in misdemeanor courts throughout the state. Misdemeanor drug possession charges increased 229% between July 2023 and June 2024.
 - [RCW 2.70.200](#) directs OPD to assist cities under 200,000 population and counties under 500,000 population in providing public defense representation for drug possession cases. The local jurisdictions can accept funding or ask OPD to contract directly with attorneys to represent indigent people charged with possession.
 - OPD assistance for drug possession cases ends June 30, 2025, unless the Legislature appropriates funding to continue SPAR for the new biennium.
- 3. State Grant Funding for Counties and Cities -- \$80.4M in 2025-2027 Biennial Budget**
- The requested appropriation will boost public defense improvement grants to counties and cities under [Chapter 10.101 RCW](#) for the first time since the Legislature created the formula grants in 2005. The funding also will implement a competitive Innovation Grant to help under-resourced jurisdictions pilot new approaches to improve public defense services.
 - County and city governments are the primary provider of public defense representation in nearly all indigent adult criminal and juvenile cases at the trial level. Public defense costs are rising fast, and local governments need supplementary funding from the state.
 - Washington currently funds the RCW 10.101 grants at less than \$7 million per year and is one of only 13 states to provide either no or minimal state funding for trial-level criminal public defense.

The Advisory Committee also recognizes a need to increase vendor rates for OPD's contracted public defense providers to recruit and retain professionals necessary to carry out this state-funded work. These are experienced private attorneys and social work professionals that ensure the constitutional right to counsel for parents in dependency and termination cases, for people facing civil commitment under Chapter 10.77 RCW and Chapter 71.09 RCW, and for people who have a right to appeal from Superior Court.

In addition, please don't overlook OPD's maintenance-level budget requests to retain an essential CIO position, maintain IT systems, and cover an increase in the monthly lease payment for office space. These are foundational business operations that must be funded.

I and other members of the Advisory Committee are pleased to lend our support to the Office of Public Defense, and we thank you for your careful consideration of OPD's budget requests.

Sincerely,



Anne A. Lee, Chair
OPD Advisory Committee

cc: Senator Derek Stanford, Vice Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Senator Chris Gildon, Ranking Member, Senate Ways and Means Committee
Representative Steve Bergquist, Vice Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Representative Chris Corry, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee