



Washoe County Public Defender

350 S. Center St. 5th Floor

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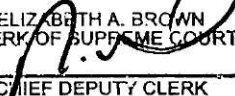
www.washoecounty.gov/defender

September 20, 2023

Nevada Supreme Court
c/o Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Via email: nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov

FILED

SEP 21 2023

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

Re: Support for ADKT 0611

Dear Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court,

I am writing in support of proposed Nevada Supreme Court Rule 49.5. This Rule is a crucial step towards addressing the growing need for legal assistance among indigent individuals. The lack of access to justice in our community is a critical concern.

One of the residual effects of the Covid-19 pandemic is a dearth of licensed Nevada attorneys who are seeking a career in serving indigent populations in our community. Law school graduates have spent years honing their legal expertise, and their ability to contribute to vulnerable populations should not be restricted solely due to the timeline of their bar admission. Allowing law school graduates who are pending Nevada bar admission to serve vulnerable populations (while appropriately supervised) would provide significant additional support for licensed attorneys. It would also allow legal organizations and public defender's offices to train new attorneys prior to bar admission, so that they would have a better foundation for practice once they are admitted.

This need is especially great for public defense, a service guaranteed by the constitution. Effective assistance of court-appointed counsel for individuals facing loss of liberty and who cannot afford to hire private counsel is a fundamental constitutional right. Public defender's offices are understaffed as is. Delays in filling open attorney positions in those offices further exacerbate the constitutional crisis of failing to provide effective assistance of counsel to the accused.

For all these reasons, I support ADKT 0611 and Proposed Supreme Court Rule 49.5. I urge you to consider additional amendments to this rule in the future to include public defense in Washoe County. I also hope you will consider future amendments to expand Supreme Court Rule 49.1(e) (limited practice certification for



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attorneys admitted to practice in other jurisdictions) to apply to Washoe County public defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn Grose".

EVELYN GROSE

Washoe County Public Defender