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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES

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FILED

SEP 21 2023

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

September 21, 2023

Via email to nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov

Nevada Supreme Court
Attn: Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Letter in Support of ADKT 0611, with the amendment

Dear Honorable Members of the Supreme Court of Nevada,

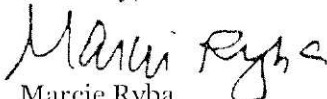
The Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) is writing this letter in support of ADKT 0611, a petition seeking the adoption of Supreme Court Rule 49.5 filed on July 27, 2023, and the Amendment to Petition filed on September 15, 2023.

Like the challenges that legal aid organizations are facing in Nevada's highly competitive and well-paid market, Nevada counties are struggling to fully staff their indigent defense services needs with qualified counsel. The shortage of qualified indigent defense counsel is a nation-wide issue. And Nevada's rural counties are feeling it the hardest.

Of further challenge, the State of Nevada entered a settlement in the case of *Davis v. State* wherein the Board on Indigent Defense Services will establish workload standards for indigent defense attorneys, and the counties must comply with those workload standards within 12 months. Under these standards -- established based upon multiple Delphi studies and uniform data collection -- the number of necessary indigent defense providers necessary in the rural counties will likely significantly increase. Allowing limited practice by law school graduates in indigent defense services cases (with proper supervision), will assist Nevada in complying with the workload standard and build a stronger pipeline for indigent defense services providers in our rural counties.

The Department is grateful for the opportunity to have submitted the amendment request.

Sincerely,



Marcie Ryba
Executive Director

23-31092