

☐ EXPEDITE

☒ Hearing is set:

Date: Friday, November 2, 2018

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Judge: Christopher Lanese

☐ No hearing is set.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
FOR THURSTON COUNTY

COLLEEN DAVISON, legal guardian for
K.B., a minor, on behalf of themselves and
others similarly situated and GARY
MURRELL,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STATE OF WASHINGTON and
WASHINGTON STATE OFFICE OF PUBLIC
DEFENSE,

Defendants.

Case No.: 17-2-01968-34

PLAINTIFFS' OPENING BRIEF IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

The landmark decision of *Gideon v. Wainwright* held that the duty to uphold the constitutional right to counsel belongs to the states. The right to counsel “which is ‘fundamental and essential to a fair trial’ is made obligatory upon the States by the Fourteenth Amendment.” 372 U.S. 335, 342, 83 S. Ct. 792, 9 L. Ed. 2d 799 (1963). The courts have reinforced that point repeatedly. *See* Section IV.B., below. A state holds in particular the constitutional duty to provide counsel for children confronted by the justice system and its attendant power and peril:

The juvenile needs the assistance of counsel to cope with problems of law, to make skilled inquiry into the facts, to insist upon regularity of the proceedings, and to ascertain whether he has a defense and to prepare and submit it. The child ‘requires the guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him.’

In re Gault, 387 U.S. 1, 36-37, 87 S. Ct. 1428, 19 L. Ed. 2d 527 (1967) (citations omitted).

This Motion demonstrates that the State of Washington has both the constitutional and statutory duty, as well as the legal authority, to remedy Grays Harbor County’s (“the County”) deficient juvenile public defense system. Defendant Office of Public Defense (“OPD”), through its agents, admits the essential tasks required by the right to counsel. Plaintiffs’ expert has concluded that those essential tasks are not occurring and that, indeed, the County’s juvenile public defense system “does not act as counsel” for children being prosecuted, failing to provide even minimally effective representation at every critical stage. In short,

[t]he attorney represents the client in name only...having no idea what the client’s goals are, whether there are any defenses or mitigating circumstances that require investigation, or whether special considerations regarding immigration status, mental or physical conditions, or criminal history exist. Such perfunctory ‘representation’ does not satisfy the Sixth Amendment.

Wilbur v. City of Mount Vernon, 989 F. Supp. 2d 1122, 1131-32 (W.D. Wash. 2013); *United States v. Cronin*, 466 U.S. 648, 656, 104 S. Ct. 2039, 80 L. Ed. 2d 657 (1984) (“The right to the effective assistance of counsel is thus the right of the accused to require the prosecution’s case to survive the crucible of meaningful adversarial testing”).

The evidence clearly establishes the systemic deficiencies which perpetuate the violation of the right to counsel occurring here. Plaintiffs’ expert and OPD’s witnesses also agree about

1 the severe harm to children when the right to counsel is violated. This Court should grant the
2 declaratory relief sought by Plaintiff. The State holds the duty. The State must act.

3 II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

4 A. The County juvenile public defense system has long been and continues to be 5 unconstitutional, harming children

6 Children in the County are being harmed by the unconstitutional juvenile public defense
7 system, as shown by both Defendants' admissions and the evidence received in discovery and
8 surveyed by Plaintiffs' expert. Here are some examples:¹

9 M.D. - In April 2016, OPD learned that a 16-year-old boy, M.D.,² was serving 120 days
10 for probation violations in the County's juvenile detention center. The sentence was illegal, four
11 times the length allowed by RCW 13.40.200.³ The County contracts with a single attorney to
12 represent all juvenile offenders and status offenders when there is a right to counsel, unless there
13 is a conflict.⁴ M.D., like virtually all other children who come before the juvenile court, was
14 indigent and the public defender who held the lead juvenile offender contract was appointed.⁵
15 The public defender (Kyle Imler) did not object to the sentence or attempt to seek M.D.'s release
16 from the illegal sentence, even after OPD told the public defender the sentence was illegal.⁶
17 Eventually the *prosecutor* filed a motion conceding the sentence violated Washington law and
18 requesting M.D.'s release.⁷ Later that year when the County filed its application for RCW 10.101
19 state funding for 2017, OPD did not raise any concerns or take action to address the problem.

20 K.B. - Shortly after March 5, 2017, OPD received a 21-page letter from named Plaintiff
21 Colleen Davison detailing how her 11-year-old granddaughter K.B., who had no prior criminal
22 history, had been incarcerated since January 31 in the County juvenile detention center and was

23
24 ¹ The facts presented here and elsewhere are based on redacted exhibits and files from the current public defender.
Plaintiffs have separately informed Defendants of exactly which files are referred to in these sections.

25 ² Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 160:8-166:1; Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 67:13-69:13. (All references to "Ex." are
references to exhibits attached to the Declaration of Mathew Harrington.)

26 ³ Ex. 6; Ex. 7.

⁴ Ex. 8.

⁵ Ex. 6; Ex. 7.

27 ⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Ex. 7.

1 being harmed by the public defense system there.⁸ Among other deficiencies, the letter described
2 how the public defender was “offering no defense” and failing to adequately communicate with
3 her extremely young client, despite Davison having given the public defender documents
4 showing the child’s past trauma from parental abuse.⁹ The letter also described K.B.’s ongoing
5 school, medication, and mental health problems.¹⁰ The County juvenile public defender
6 appointed at K.B.’s first appearance on February 1 was Amanda Kleespie, the county’s former
7 juvenile public defender for conflict cases.¹¹ In her March 2017 letter, Davison described to OPD
8 how the public defender was facilitating attempts to coerce K.B. into pleading guilty instead of
9 investigating and building a case for release and/or a defense.¹²

10 Because K.B. was 11 years old, the law presumes she was incapable of committing a
11 crime and RCW 9A.04.050 mandated a capacity hearing within 14 days of first appearance.
12 There is no evidence the public defender was aware of that requirement until over a month later,
13 after OPD, in receipt of Davison’s letter, brought it to her attention.¹³ K.B. was held in custody
14 on \$10,000 bail; the record shows no objection to the bail amount by the public defender.¹⁴ OPD
15 was present during one of K.B.’s hearings, observing that the public defender did not stand with
16 her, leaving this 11-year-old girl to face the judge’s (i.e., the fact-finder’s) questioning alone.¹⁵

17 On March 3, after K.B. had been in custody over a month, she allegedly spit at a guard in
18 the detention center.¹⁶ The public defender received “incident reports” from the detention center,
19 which are regularly included in the public defender’s case files, reporting several self-harm
20 incidents and rage outbursts, and that the mental health professionals (MHPs) had been called in
21 numerous times because of K.B.’s suicide threats and attempts.¹⁷ Instead of investigating
22

23 ⁸ Ex. 9 (Davison letter to OPD).

24 ⁹ Ex. 9. The abuse experienced by K.B. led to the State removing the child from her parents and placing her in
25 Davison’s custody.

26 ¹⁰ Ex. 9.

27 ¹¹ Ex. 10; Ex. 11.

¹² Ex. 9.

¹³ Ex. 12.

¹⁴ Ex. 13.

¹⁵ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 150:18–151:8, 153:20–154:21.

¹⁶ Ex. 14.

¹⁷ Ex. 15.

possible defenses or seeking K.B.'s release from the incarceration that was taking a severe toll on her mental health, on March 6, 2017 the public defender wrote to the prosecutor with a plea offer.¹⁸ The offer was to plead guilty to two felonies on the charges where the capacity hearing had not been timely held, and add another felony for the detention spitting incident.¹⁹ Kleespie's letter indicates she had not yet discussed the offer with her client.²⁰ It was not until March 8 that Kleespie filed a motion to dismiss the original two assault charges on which a capacity hearing had not been timely held; on March 10, the prosecutor agreed those charges had to be dismissed.²¹ However, the prior day a felony assault charge was filed against K.B. for the spitting incident, which was used to continue her incarceration.²² K.B. was not released until April 20, 79 days after her arrest, and after a crisis center worker reported that the juvenile detention center's treatment amounted to child abuse.²³

J.C. - In November 2017, Plaintiffs' expert witness Simmie Baer, who frequently does trainings with and for OPD, observed County juvenile court for the first of many times.²⁴ She observed a case involving 13-year-old J.C.²⁵ The child was notably small and had no prior criminal history.²⁶ His diversion was terminated *not* for criminal conduct but for J.C. having experienced a problem in school.²⁷ During court hearings, J.C.'s public defender Kleespie sat at a table behind J.C. while he stood directly before the court facing judicial questioning without the public defender intervening.²⁸ At the time of the November 30 pretrial hearing, over three weeks after appointment, Kleespie stated that she had not yet met with J.C.²⁹ The court granted a request for a one-week continuance and ordered J.C. to be taken into custody and held at the

¹⁸ Ex. 16.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Ex. 12; Ex. 17.

²² Ex. 14.

²³ Ex. 18; Ex. 19.

²⁴ Expert Report of Simmie Baer (attached to the Declaration of Simmie Baer), hereinafter referred to as "Expert Report."

²⁵ *Id.* at 8.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ Ex. 20.

²⁸ Expert Report at 8.

²⁹ Ex. 21.

1 detention center.³⁰ Upon hearing he was to be locked up, J.C. sobbed and said repeatedly that he
2 needed a hug.³¹ The public defender finally met with J.C. on December 6, nearly a month
3 following appointment, one day before the continued pretrial hearing, and after J.C. had been
4 incarcerated nearly a week.³² On December 7, J.C. pled guilty to the charge of unlawful
5 inhalation of toxic fumes, and was sentenced to 21 days in detention, with credit for time
6 served.³³ No motion challenging J.C.'s statements to police was filed, and Kleespie later
7 admitted in deposition she was unfamiliar with the 2011 U.S. Supreme Court case that held a 13-
8 year-old child's age and disabilities are legally relevant to the admissibility of statements to
9 police.³⁴

10 H.B. – 16-year -old H.B. was incarcerated in the County juvenile detention center for
11 issues related to her being a foster child in the legal custody of the State when an incident in the
12 detention center led to her being charged with three counts of felony custodial assault, and public
13 defender Kleespie was appointed to represent her on October 23, 2017.³⁵ In court, she exhibited
14 signs of severe mental health problems.³⁶ H.B. was ordered detained on \$15,000 bail; there is no
15 evidence of any objection to the bail amount by Kleespie.³⁷ On November 16, H.B. pled guilty to
16 two felony counts and was sentenced to 37 days of confinement and 12 months of probation.³⁸
17 She has subsequently done 30-day periods of detention time for probation violations.³⁹ On those
18 matters, the public defender usually met with H.B. the day before a court hearing and, on the day
19 of the hearing, H.B. admitted the violation.⁴⁰

20 C.W. - C.W. was charged with two counts of second degree rape.⁴¹ He was 15 years old
21

22 ³⁰ Expert Report at 8.

23 ³¹ *Id.*

24 ³² Ex. 21; Ex. 22.

25 ³³ Ex. 23.

26 ³⁴ *J.D.B. v. North Carolina*, 564 U.S. 261, 131 S. Ct. 2394, 180 L. Ed. 2d 310 (2011); Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at
27 91:11-21.

³⁵ Ex. 24.

³⁶ Expert Report at 8.

³⁷ Ex. 25.

³⁸ Ex. 26.

³⁹ Ex. 27.

⁴⁰ Ex. 27; Ex. 28.

⁴¹ Expert Report at 6.

1 with no criminal history when he was charged, and spent nearly 11 months in detention prior to
2 trial, on \$75,000 bail, with no objection to the bail amount by the public defender.⁴² Part of the
3 evidence used to convict C.W. at trial were his statements to police when he was arrested; public
4 defender Kleespie filed no motion to suppress.⁴³

5 N.C. – Plaintiffs’ expert observed another child, N.C., exhibiting obvious signs of
6 extreme mental distress while in court.⁴⁴ Public defender Kleespie was appointed to represent
7 then 14-year-old N.C. on July 7, 2017 on a misdemeanor assault charge involving a family
8 dispute; police reports note N.C. had been physically assaulted by an intoxicated family member
9 the day before, and she had a history of mental health issues.⁴⁵ N.C. was held in detention for
10 two weeks with only two visits from the public defender, and was released on July 20.⁴⁶ There is
11 no evidence that public defender Kleespie conducted an investigation, filed motions, or retained
12 an expert to pursue defenses, reduce charges or the form of disposition, or to prepare for trial.⁴⁷
13 N.C. pled guilty and entered a deferred disposition which was later revoked when her mom
14 alleged that N.C. assaulted her.⁴⁸ Just a few weeks later, N.C. was charged with possession of
15 marijuana after a family member reported N.C. was slamming her head into the wall and saying
16 she wanted to die; the week before, she had been taken to a hospital to be evaluated for self-
17 harming and suicidal thoughts.⁴⁹ N.C. made statements in response to questioning by the
18 police⁵⁰; nothing in the record shows the public defender considered or filed a suppression
19 motion.⁵¹ N.C. served 21 days in detention.⁵²

20 The County’s admissions regarding public defense system deficiencies

21 Contributing to the clear deficiencies in the juvenile public defense system, the County

22
23 ⁴² See Expert Report at 6 (describing these issues).

24 ⁴³ See Expert Report (describing these issues).

25 ⁴⁴ See Expert Report (describing these issues).

26 ⁴⁵ Ex. 29.

27 ⁴⁶ Ex. 30.

⁴⁷ See Expert Report (describing these issues).

⁴⁸ Ex. 31; Ex. 32.

⁴⁹ Ex. 33.

⁵⁰ *Id.*

⁵¹ See Expert Report (describing these issues).

⁵² Ex. 31; Ex. 34.

1 has failed to monitor the public defenders and ensure compliance with court rules and state
2 standards. The current juvenile defender's contract calls for her to keep and provide time records
3 showing time spent on cases and to provide monthly reports to the County.⁵³ The County also
4 states under oath in its funding applications that attorneys keep time records; however, in its Rule
5 30(b)(6) deposition the County admitted that it does not obtain time records from any defense
6 attorney contracted to the County, including Kleespie.⁵⁴ The County also admitted Kleespie did
7 not file monthly reports for eight months in 2017, nor certifications of compliance for 2016 and
8 2017 as required by court rules.⁵⁵ The County did not realize monthly reports were lacking until
9 it received a public records request.⁵⁶ One of the County's documents shows Kleespie did not file
10 a certification required by court rules until 3 ½ years had gone by.⁵⁷

11 Kleespie admitted that she does not keep time records, and only provides the County with
12 a total monthly figure called "case point," which is based on the County's juvenile court "Case
13 Weighting Policy."⁵⁸ The County admitted this policy was developed by the juvenile court judge
14 based solely on his personal experience of how long cases typically take in the County's juvenile
15 court.⁵⁹ The policy states that juvenile offense cases should take six hours or less and that
16 juveniles typically admit probation violations early in the proceedings and thus should take a
17 total of 54 minutes or less.⁶⁰ OPD Director Joanne Moore testified that the case weighting policy
18 does not comply with established standards, because it is not based on a time study.⁶¹ The
19 County admitted that it does not review or audit Kleespie's "case point" figures in her monthly
20 reports.⁶² In addition, even though the County asked the public defender to separate juvenile
21 offense cases from the status offense cases in her reports, she has not done so.⁶³ The public

22 ⁵³ Ex. 10 at 7.

23 ⁵⁴ Ex. 35 at 12; Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 84:14–85:2

24 ⁵⁵ Ex. 36; Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 70:21–72:15, 75:22–76:4); *see* JuCR 9.2(requiring reporting and certification.

25 ⁵⁶ Ex. 36.

26 ⁵⁷ Ex. 37.

27 ⁵⁸ Ex. 38; Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 48:10–49:23.

⁵⁹ Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 64:13–65:11.

⁶⁰ Ex. 38.

⁶¹ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 55:7–56:2; 66:17–67:9.

⁶² Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 76:16–82:7.

⁶³ Ex. 39; Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 68:5–69:3.

1 defender also testified that she has defense contracts with two small cities in the County, such
2 that her juvenile work is two-thirds of her time, yet the County testified that it does not know
3 whether Kleespie has any contracts other than the lead juvenile contract.⁶⁴

4 The County further admitted it does not supervise or conduct any type of performance
5 evaluation of juvenile defenders.⁶⁵ The County admits that it does not ask for information
6 regarding juvenile offense case outcomes.⁶⁶ There can be no dispute of material fact that: the
7 County cannot know whether a lawyer is over caseload limits set by court rule; the County does
8 not know exactly how many juvenile offense cases the lawyer conducts; and, the County has no
9 information of what the lawyer is doing in cases, or any measure of quality of performance.

10 **B. Plaintiffs' expert opines that the County system amounts to no counsel at all and is**
11 **unconstitutional; agents of OPD corroborate that opinion⁶⁷**

12 Plaintiffs' expert Baer is a nationally known expert on juvenile public defense, and
13 recently retired from being a public defender in Cowlitz County. As her Report explains, Baer is
14 very familiar with the constitutional and other standards applicable to provision of the right to
15 counsel in juvenile court, requirements and standards that are the subject of trainings given by
16 OPD to public defenders. Baer, like OPD, specifically trains public defenders on *Wilbur v. City*
17 *of Mount Vernon*,⁶⁸ which held that an absence of adversarial testing violates the constitution.
18 Baer is very familiar with legal developments that require consideration of juvenile brain science
19 principles in representing juveniles. Baer has observed the County juvenile court on the dates
20 listed in her Report. She has reviewed the court files and defender case files for each case when
21 she observed court where the lead juvenile public defender represented the child, as well as a
22 number of court files in other cases.

23 The OPD witnesses are also public defense experts. Moore has served as executive
24 director of OPD for 20 years, George Yeannakis has been a practicing juvenile public defender

25 ⁶⁴ Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 5:19-6:2; Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 87:6-88:2.

26 ⁶⁵ Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 52:21-53:21.

27 ⁶⁶ Ex. 4 (GH 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 104:25-105:11.

⁶⁷ The evidence in this section is based largely on Simmie Baer's Expert Report.

⁶⁸ 989 F. Supp. 2d 1122 (W.D. Wash. 2013).

1 for years and is a nationally known expert on the topic, and Katrin Johnson has been a practicing
2 public defender for years in addition to her work for OPD's trial improvement program which
3 seeks to improve county public defense operations.⁶⁹ Yeannakis and Johnson observed juvenile
4 court in the County a total of a half dozen times.⁷⁰

5 Plaintiffs' expert, Baer, has concluded that the juvenile public defender in the County is
6 not acting as counsel for the accused. Baer's conclusion is based on multiple failures to conduct
7 the basic tasks of constitutionally adequate representation, as detailed in her Report filed in
8 conjunction with this Motion. The standard by which Baer measures the constitutional right is in
9 large part corroborated by testimony of OPD witnesses. OPD witness Johnson was asked at her
10 deposition what, in her experience as a public defender and as staff at OPD, is "meaningful
11 adversarial testing." She testified:

12 Well, certainly it would include defense counsel doing an analysis on the discovery
13 provided by the state, and consulting with their clients about the discovery so the clients
14 are aware of what's available. Using investigative services for questioning witnesses,
15 questioning police officers, questioning other witnesses, getting information, records, any
16 information that could be helpful to the case. But, you know, not just passively taking the
17 police report and relying on that as the official story of what occurred. Then of course
18 litigating it, bringing motions or going to trial or using information found within
19 negotiations, but again taking more of an active approach rather than a passive approach
20 of here's the police report, here's the offer.⁷¹

21 The other OPD deponents gave similar answers, both identifying regular and meaningful
22 communication with juvenile defendants as critical due to their age and vulnerability, and the
23 need for adequate independent investigation of a case, as necessary to a functioning adversarial
24 system.⁷² As to the main specific deficiencies:

25 Failure to stand with and speak for the client: Baer's Report describes how the County
26 public defender often does not stand with her clients while they are talking with the judge and
27

⁶⁹ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 5:16–21; Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 14:21–15:14, 19:18–21:9; Ex. 3 (Johnson Dep.)
20:14–22:2.

⁷⁰ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 118:17–119:9.

⁷¹ Ex. 3 (Johnson Dep.) at 39:16–40:13.

⁷² Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 57:19–58:11; Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 35:9–37:12.

1 the judge is interrogating the clients.⁷³ Thus children are required to speak for themselves, and
2 often self-incriminate, rather than having a lawyer to speak for them.⁷⁴ Yeannakis confirmed
3 seeing the County juvenile public defenders fail to stand with their clients for the entire court
4 session, forcing each child to stand in front of the judge alone.⁷⁵ This witness also observed
5 public defender Kleespie fail to speak on behalf of her juvenile clients, leaving them to answer
6 substantive questions from the judge without any objection.⁷⁶

7 Lack of individualized investigation as to factual and legal defenses and mitigation
8 evidence: Baer observed virtually no evidence that the public defender has done an independent
9 investigation of the clients' lives, needs, assets and deficits, or that the defender has conducted
10 investigation of the charges detailed in the police report or other materials provided by the
11 prosecution.⁷⁷ Baer finds no evidence that the juvenile public defender obtains school records or
12 other records or information about her clients to present to the court.⁷⁸ Rather, the defender relies
13 virtually exclusively on information provided by the probation officer or prosecutor, or by the
14 clients' families.⁷⁹ Baer states that a person fulfilling the constitutional right to a lawyer would
15 not rely on information provided by opposing officials, but would do independent investigation
16 of the case and about the client.⁸⁰ OPD witness Yeannakis agreed that in at least one case he
17 observed it was clear the juvenile public defender failed to investigate the facts.⁸¹ He also
18 testified that a public defender's failure to investigate clients' cases constitutes a lack of an
19 adversarial system and risks clients being falsely convicted.⁸² The specific case examples
20 described above and in Baer's Report also corroborate the lack of investigation by the County
21 juvenile public defender.

22 Lack of challenges to bail amounts, pretrial detention, and probation violations: Baer

23 ⁷³ Expert Report at 1, 8.

24 ⁷⁴ *Id.*

25 ⁷⁵ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 150:18–151:8.

26 ⁷⁶ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 153:20–154:21.

27 ⁷⁷ Expert Report at 6.

⁷⁸ Expert Report at 6-7.

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ Expert Report at 5.

⁸¹ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) 151:9–14.

⁸² Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 36:3–19.

1 states that a person acting in compliance with the constitutional right to a lawyer would also
2 work to minimize the time that a client spends in detention, from the beginning of a case,
3 because detention in a jail-like setting is particularly harmful for children.⁸³ Yet Baer finds the
4 juvenile public defender in the County makes little effort to minimize detention time or advocate
5 for release. Many juveniles are brought before the judge on alleged violations of probation
6 conditions, often for common adolescent behavior reflecting the excessiveness of the
7 conditions.⁸⁴ Based on the record in this case, juveniles are virtually always given the maximum
8 punishment of 30 days in detention for such violations. Yet the public defender does not make
9 individualized arguments for particular clients or test the evidence presented by the probation
10 officer.⁸⁵ Instead, she allows the juvenile to admit the violation and provide further incriminating
11 evidence in response to the judge's questions.⁸⁶ Baer observed no alternative sources of
12 information, investigation, or explanation provided by the public defender in these hearings.⁸⁷

13 OPD witness Yeannakis corroborated that the bail amounts he has seen in the County
14 juvenile court have been high, and have gone unchallenged by the juvenile public defender.⁸⁸
15 They confirmed that the juvenile detention rate in this county is greater than almost any other in
16 the state.⁸⁹ They agreed there is a persistent problem in this county of juveniles being detained
17 for longer periods than necessary to accomplish any real goal of rehabilitation, and agreed judges
18 uniformly give most or maybe all juveniles 30 days of detention at any modification hearing.⁹⁰
19 OPD witnesses confirmed that juveniles who are detained while their case is ongoing have a
20 statistically higher chance of being jailed at the end of their case than those who are not in
21 custody, and expressed concern that children in custody are easily preyed upon by detention staff
22 and other kids, partially due to the wide range of ages that are mixed together in a close
23

24 ⁸³ Expert Report at 5.

25 ⁸⁴ *Id.*

26 ⁸⁵ *Id.*

27 ⁸⁶ *Id.*

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 129:1-22.

⁸⁹ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 127:15-128:4.

⁹⁰ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 127:15-128:25, 130:18-132:19.

environment in this county’s detention facility.⁹¹ Yeannakis also noted the harm children suffer in being removed from school and deprived of parental interaction while detained.⁹² He agreed these forms of harm from detention demonstrate why it is important for juvenile public defenders to challenge bail for their clients.⁹³

Lack of motions to suppress statements to police: Baer observed no evidence of pretrial motions one would typically find in at least some of a defender’s case files in juvenile prosecutions.⁹⁴ In particular, motions were never brought to challenge juveniles’ frequent statements to police.⁹⁵ Public defender Kleespie testified that the majority of her clients had talked to the police in a variety of settings and agreed that any motions she filed would be contained in her case files.⁹⁶ Yet no motions to suppress statements to police were found in the files Baer reviewed.⁹⁷

Lack of individualized advocacy; rare trials; pattern of a “meet and plead” system: Baer reports that in many cases, the juvenile is charged with a felony and pleads guilty shortly thereafter.⁹⁸ Often, the public defender advises clients to agree to a deferred disposition, but with stringent conditions.⁹⁹ The child is then held in detention for 30 days at a time, sometimes repeatedly, for violating a condition.¹⁰⁰ Baer saw little evidence that real plea negotiations occurred, or that these pleas were entered after reasonable investigation.¹⁰¹ In Baer’s experience, attention to the actual charges, the circumstances of the juvenile, and other matters of legal analysis and investigation can provide a basis for either going to trial or negotiating much more favorable plea agreements than pleading guilty to a felony as charged.¹⁰²

In contrast to the individualized advocacy required by the constitutional right to counsel,

⁹¹ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 129:15–130:17.

⁹² Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 130:9–17.

⁹³ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 129:15–130:17.

⁹⁴ Expert Report at 6.

⁹⁵ *Id.*

⁹⁶ Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 90:5–15, 91:22–92:19.

⁹⁷ Expert Report at 6.

⁹⁸ Expert Report at 7.

⁹⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ *Id.*

¹⁰² *Id.*

1 one OPD witness testified that in the County it was “hard to tell who was the prosecutor and who
2 was the defender;” two OPD witnesses also confirmed the importance of the public defender
3 spending more time with juvenile clients.¹⁰³ OPD witness Johnson agreed adequate client
4 communication is required by WSBA standards for indigent defense services and the WSBA
5 performance guidelines for criminal defense attorneys.¹⁰⁴ OPD witness Yeannakis agreed that
6 failing to properly educate a juvenile client to ensure they understand their rights, and why they
7 should or should not waive rights likely amounts to ineffective assistance of counsel.¹⁰⁵

8 Lack of individualized sentencing advocacy supported by individualized investigation: In
9 the files Baer reviewed, there have been no memoranda for sentencing as would be expected
10 from juvenile defenders; public defender Kleespie admitted she rarely files sentencing memos.¹⁰⁶
11 Baer saw no evidence that the juvenile defender, either in writing or at the time of the hearing,
12 sought to advocate for a mitigated sentence by providing the court with alternative
13 information.¹⁰⁷ She saw no evidence that the juvenile public defender ever brought into the
14 courtroom the current common understanding of juvenile brain development and how that affects
15 behavior.¹⁰⁸ OPD witness Yeannakis confirmed both that he is aware juveniles regularly must
16 serve 30 days for probation violations in the County, without individualization, and that a
17 juvenile public defender who does not raise the differences between juvenile and adult
18 defendants in advocating less detention time is “probably being ineffective.”¹⁰⁹

19 **C. OPD’s knowledge of defects in the County’s juvenile public defense system and**
20 **failure to take oversight action**

21 As touched on above, OPD has for years had specific knowledge about serious
22 deficiencies in the County’s juvenile defense system. OPD knew that the former public defender
23 refused to file the motion to free M.D. from the illegal 120-day probation violation sentence and

24 _____
25 ¹⁰³ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 36:3–37:12, 117:3–21, 121:16–122:25; Ex. 3 (Johnson Dep.) at 97:5–101:24.

26 ¹⁰⁴ Ex. 3 (Johnson Dep.) at 97:5–101:2.

27 ¹⁰⁵ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 32:10–33:20.

¹⁰⁶ Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 137:21–138:15.

¹⁰⁷ Expert Report at 7-8.

¹⁰⁸ *Id.*; Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 31:10–25 (acknowledging lack of familiarity with juvenile brain science cases).

¹⁰⁹ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 31:22–33:20, 130:19–132:19.

1 that the prosecutor had to file the motion. OPD knew that the current defender failed to timely
2 file a mandatory motion to determine capacity for named plaintiff K.B. and, through a lengthy
3 letter from her grandmother, of other serious complaints about the system. OPD also has known
4 for several years that there are systemic problems with the juvenile defense system in the County
5 as detailed below.

6 Every year that the County applies for and receives state funding under RCW 10.101, the
7 County submits with its application to OPD the juvenile public defense contracts and other data
8 regarding the juvenile public defense system.¹¹⁰ OPD's administration of the program requires it
9 to determine each county's annual eligibility for the grant; if a county is determined not to
10 "substantially comply" with the requirements of RCW 10.101, OPD "shall" notify the county
11 and if the county fails to cure, its eligibility for funds "is terminated." RCW 10.101.060(2). The
12 statute also provides the authority to inquire about how grant funds are used – authority OPD has
13 used regarding the County in 2014 and 2016, when it learned more about the County's
14 deficiencies.¹¹¹ Yet OPD Director Moore admitted that OPD has never raised questions, in the
15 grant process or otherwise, about the following deficiencies in the County's juvenile public
16 defense system.¹¹² As to specific deficiencies OPD has been made aware of:

17 Lack of Adversarial Testing – As detailed above, OPD has for several years known that
18 juvenile defenders in the County fail to stand with clients, allow judicial interrogation of clients
19 without intervention, fail to investigate or file motions an attorney acting as an advocate would
20 file, do little to challenge high bail amounts or advocate for release, fail to adequately consult
21 with clients, and conduct little advocacy on probation violations that usually result in 30-day
22 sentences to detention. OPD has known this both through complaints made to OPD and through
23 observation by OPD staff.

24 Lack of public defense independence and pressure from the court – According to OPD
25 juvenile expert Yeannakis, juvenile defenders in the County are under pressure from judges, as

26 ¹¹⁰ See Ex. 35.

27 ¹¹¹ Ex. 40.

¹¹² Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 100:7–21.

1 well as prosecutors, not to advocate for their clients.¹¹³ The County standards ordinance OPD
2 receives with the grant applications (Resolution 2008-160) states judges “alone” select the public
3 defense contractors.¹¹⁴ OPD witnesses testified that a system where judges effectively select the
4 public defenders and oversee that process may lead to an environment where the public defender
5 makes decisions to keep themselves in favor with the judge, rather than to vigorously advocate
6 for their clients’ rights; such a system creates a dangerous conflict of interest, and two OPD
7 witnesses agrees it is a systemic issue in the County.¹¹⁵ OPD knows from the County’s grant
8 applications over the years that the county has kept the same defense contractors for years, at the
9 same rate of pay.¹¹⁶

10 Lack of evaluation, supervision, and monitoring, required by RCW 10.101.030 – In 2008,
11 the Grays Harbor Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution purporting to support
12 compliance with state public defense standards.¹¹⁷ Despite the statute specifically requiring that
13 the standards must include evaluation, supervision, and monitoring of a county’s public defense
14 system, RCW 10.101.030, the County’s resolution does not mention any of these mandatory
15 topics as OPD’s Director admitted.¹¹⁸ She testified that “evaluations and monitoring are a central
16 part of quality representation.”¹¹⁹ She also confirmed that client communication is critically
17 important, especially for accused juveniles.¹²⁰ The County told OPD in a 2016 meeting that the
18 only oversight of juvenile public defense is the judge’s courtroom observation.¹²¹ OPD witness
19 Yeannakis agreed this constitutes a systemic problem.¹²²

20 The County does not even have a publicly-known system for addressing complaints about
21 the juvenile public defense system, as required by RCW 10.101.030 and described in the
22

23 ¹¹³ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 155:7–156:10, 149:2–150:14.

24 ¹¹⁴ Ex. 41 at 1.

25 ¹¹⁵ Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 113:20–114:5, 149:2–150:14; Ex. 3. (Johnson Dep.) at 96:4–97:4; Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6)
26 Dep.) at 50:10–51:11.

27 ¹¹⁶ See Ex. 35; Ex. 43; Ex. 4 (GHC 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 45:5–46:5; Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 44:14–45:20.

¹¹⁷ Ex. 41.

¹¹⁸ Ex. 41; Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 66:1–16.

¹¹⁹ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 38:23–39:17.

¹²⁰ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 56:21–58:11.

¹²¹ Ex. 40; Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 62:6–63:19.

¹²² Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 113:8–114:5.

1 county's 2008 standards resolution.¹²³ When OPD asked the County about its system for
2 receiving such complaints, the county said people can raise complaints with the judge but
3 admitted no one is ever told that a complaint system exists.¹²⁴

4 Despite OPD knowing these systemic and large-scale deficiencies in advocacy, OPD has
5 never suggested the County make changes, let alone required the County to act.

6 **III. ISSUE PRESENTED**

7 Does the State's constitutional obligation to provide the "assistance of counsel" require
8 the State of Washington, on this record, to take action to remedy the constitutional defects in the
9 County's juvenile public defense system?

10 **IV. AUTHORITY**

11 This Motion shows that, as a matter of law, the State of Washington bears the ultimate
12 burden to remedy systemic violations of the constitutional right to counsel. Moreover, the
13 material facts above demonstrate that the County's juvenile public defense system is
14 constitutionally-defective and that these defects are known to the State. Therefore, as a matter of
15 law, the State is empowered and required to act to remediate the unconstitutional system. When
16 the moving party meets the burden of showing the absence of material fact, the burden shifts to
17 the opposing party to establish such a material issue of fact. *Young v. Key Pharms., Inc.*, 112
18 Wn.2d 216, 225, 770 P.2d 182 (1989), *overruled on other grounds by* 130 Wn.2d 160, 922 P.2d
19 59 (1996). Because the State will be unable to satisfy this burden, the Motion should be granted.

20 **A. The State's duty to comply with the constitutional right to counsel requires** 21 **"adversarial testing" and a "guiding hand," especially for juveniles**

22 **1. The Constitution requires that public defense systems provide meaningful** 23 **adversarial testing of the prosecution's case**

24 The right to counsel is guaranteed by both the U.S. Constitution and Washington's State
25 Constitution. U.S. CONST. amend. VI; WASH. CONST. ART. I, § 22. This right is fundamental and
26 essential to the provision of a fair trial, and the states have a duty to protect it. *Gideon v.*

27 ¹²³ Ex. 35 at 14; Ex. 5 (Kleespie Dep.) at 70:8–71:10.

¹²⁴ Ex. 40; Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 62:6–63:3.

1 *Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335, 342–45, 83 S. Ct. 792, 9 L. Ed. 2d 799 (1963). “The right of effective
2 counsel . . . [is] fundamental to, and implicit in, any meaningful modern concept of ordered
3 liberty.” *State v. A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d 91, 96, 225 P.3d 956 (2010).

4 The constitutional right to counsel entails much more than checking a box indicating that
5 a defendant “has a lawyer.” The Constitution requires a lawyer who *advocates* for the accused:

6 The text of the Sixth Amendment itself . . . requires not merely the provision of counsel
7 to the accused, but “Assistance,” which is to be “for his defence.” . . . If no actual
8 “Assistance” “for” the accused’s “defence” is provided, then the constitutional guarantee
9 has been violated. . . .” *The Constitution’s guarantee of assistance of counsel cannot be*
satisfied by mere formal appointment.” Avery v. Alabama, 308 U.S. 444, 446, 60 S. Ct.
321, 322, 84 L. Ed. 377 (1940) (footnote omitted).

10 . . . Thus, the adversarial process protected by the Sixth Amendment requires that the
11 accused have “counsel acting in the role of an advocate.” *Anders v. California*, 386 U.S.
12 738, 743, 87 S. Ct. 1396, 1399, 18 L. Ed. 2d 493 (1967). *The right to the effective*
assistance of counsel is thus the right of the accused to require the prosecution’s case to
survive the crucible of meaningful adversarial testing.

13 *United States v. Cronin*, 466 U.S. 648, 654–56, 104 S. Ct. 2039, 80 L. Ed. 2d 657 (1984)
14 (emphasis added) (footnotes omitted); *see also A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d at 98 (Constitution guarantees
15 “not just an appointment of counsel, but also effective assistance of counsel”).

16 The U.S. Supreme Court has described what the actual “assistance” of counsel means for
17 juveniles facing accusations of criminal behavior and loss of liberty:

18 [a] proceeding where the issue is whether the child will be found to be ‘delinquent’ and
19 subjected to the loss of his liberty for years is comparable in seriousness to a felony
20 prosecution. The juvenile needs the assistance of counsel to cope with problems of law,
21 to make skilled inquiry into the facts, to insist upon regularity of the proceedings, and to
ascertain whether he has a defense and to prepare and submit it. The child “requires the
guiding hand of counsel at every step in the proceedings against him.”

22 *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. at 36 (footnotes and citations omitted).

23 As shown in the Statement of Facts, OPD is well aware of what tasks are required in
24 order to satisfy the constitutional requirement of “meaningful adversarial testing” in respect to
25 juvenile cases, *Cronin*, 466 U.S. at 654, including regular and meaningful communication with
26 juvenile defendants as critical due to their age and vulnerability, and the need for adequate
27 independent investigation of a case. OPD’s description is consistent with all other authorities

1 discussing the right to counsel, including Washington standards and guidelines for the conduct of
2 criminal and juvenile defense. For example, the Washington Supreme Court requires juvenile
3 defenders to be “familiar with,” among other things, “the Performance Guidelines for Criminal
4 Defense Representation approved by the Washington State Bar Association and when
5 representing youth, be familiar with the Performance Guidelines for Juvenile Defense
6 Representation approved by the Washington State Bar Association.” JuCr 9.2 Stds, Standard 14,
7 specifying “Qualifications of Attorneys.” *See* Exhibits 44 and 45. They specify the same basic
8 defense functions that OPD officials—and Plaintiffs’ expert— have identified as crucial to
9 adversarial testing, and add one function that OPD overlooked: The “obligation to attempt to
10 secure the pretrial release of the client” if at all possible. Exhibit 44 at 5–8 (Guideline 2).¹²⁵ As
11 discussed below, the evidence shows the County’s juvenile public defense system violates the
12 right to counsel, and OPD knows of the deficiencies that create this constitutional violation.

13 **2. Compliance with the constitutional right to counsel must take account of the**
14 **special circumstances of children’s cognition, and the greater harms they**
15 **suffer when accused**

16 The basic tasks OPD and all of the standards recognize as necessary are the minimum
17 required to fulfill the constitutionally required “assistance of counsel.” But a constitutionally
18 compliant juvenile public defense system requires *more* to provide “assistance” and “counsel”
19 (and “meaningful” adversarial testing) to this vulnerable and immature population. This practical
20 reality is recognized by the State in the need for juvenile defenders to undergo special training
21 regarding the science of juvenile brain development, special care that juveniles understand the
22 consequences of pleading guilty, and take other steps required to provide actual representation.
23 *See* Ex. 45 (WSBA Juvenile Offense Representation Guideline 2.2) at 6. The Preface to
24 Washington’s juvenile offense practice guidelines makes explicit that juveniles’ lack of full
25 capacity and understanding of what they face is key:

26 ...[T]he unique qualities of youth demand special training, experience and skill for their
27 advocates. For example, although the need to develop an attorney-client relationship is

¹²⁵ Failure to adhere to standards, while not conclusive, is relevant evidence in consideration of constitutional claims regarding counsel, to be considered with other evidence. *A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d at 110.

1 the same whether an attorney is representing an adult or a child, the juvenile defense
2 advocate's approach to developing the necessary trust-based relationship differs when the
3 client is a child. 'Because the client in juvenile court is a minor, counsel's representation
4 is more expansive than that of a criminal defense lawyer for an adult. Lawyers for
5 children must be aware of their clients' individual and family histories, their schooling,
6 developmental disabilities, mental and physical health, and the client's status in their
7 communities in order to assess their capacities to proceed and to assist in their
8 representation. Once those capacities are understood, the lawyer must vigorously defend
9 the juvenile against the charges with that capacity in mind, and then prepare arguments to
10 obtain rehabilitative treatment should the child be found guilty.

11 *Id.* (quoting U.S. Department of Justice's Statement of Interest, filed March 13, 2015 in *N.P. vs.*
12 *State of Georgia*, Superior Court of Fulton County No. 2014-CV-241025).

13 This need for special care in defending juveniles is especially true given the very serious
14 consequences of both prosecuting and incarcerating children and youth, even for brief periods.
15 OPD fully recognizes these harms and consequences.¹²⁶ The proven harms to children include
16 harm to their future health, significant disruption of educational opportunities, and increased
17 likelihood of adult incarceration.¹²⁷ Any meaningful assistance of counsel to juveniles must be
18 informed by these grave lifetime consequences.

19 Washington law recognizes children's lesser understanding of adult legal concepts. *See*
20 *Bauman ex rel. Chapman v. Crawford*, 104 Wn.2d 241, 244–45, 704 P.2d 1181 (1985) ("the
21 child's standard of care allows for the normal incapacities and indiscretions of youth."). And in
22 the criminal context, the Constitution demands recognition of children as different:

23 More recent Supreme Court cases have clearly reaffirmed that there are measurable and
24 material differences between juveniles and adults that have constitutional implications.
25 ... The Supreme Court's case law clearly shows that treating juveniles and adults the
26 same way in all respects is not only unwise but sometimes unconstitutional.

27 *State v. S.J.C.*, 183 Wn.2d 408, 412, 352 P.3d 749 (2015) (surveying cases and harmful

¹²⁶ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 58:15–62:3; Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 129:15–132:19.

¹²⁷ *See, e.g.,* Elisabeth S. Barnert, et. al, *How does Incarcerating Young People Affect Their Adult Health Outcomes?*, Pediatrics, Volume 139, No. 2 (February 2017) at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/139/2/e20162624.full.pdf>; David S. Kirk and Robert J. Sampson, *Juvenile Arrest and Collateral Educational Damage in the Transition to Adulthood*. Sociology of Education Vol. 86 36-62 (2013), at <http://www.asanet.org/sites/default/files/savvy/journals/soe/Jan13SOEFeature.pdf>; Anna Aizer and Joseph J Doyle, *Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital, and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges*, The Quarterly Journal of Economics 130:2, 759-803 (2015) abstract at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w19102>.

consequences of juvenile offender records); *State v. Scott*, 190 Wn.2d 586, 603, 416 P.3d 1182 (2018) (“[t]he Eighth Amendment....compels us to recognize that children are different”).

The right to counsel for children must be interpreted in light of these clear mandates regarding the status, capacity and development of children.

B. The constitutional duty to provide “assistance of counsel,” particularly for juveniles, belongs to the State

1. The State cannot abdicate its constitutional duty, even if it has designated political subdivisions to perform many public defense functions

The State itself, not its political subdivisions, bears the ultimate responsibility to ensure the assistance of counsel that is required by the Constitution. Several state courts have held that a state may not wholly delegate this constitutional duty to governmental subdivisions. *See, e.g., Tucker v. State of Idaho*, 162 Idaho 11, 394 P.3d 54, 66 (2017) (“[w]hile the provision of public defense has been delegated to Idaho’s forty-four counties . . . ‘the ultimate responsibility for fulfilling the . . . constitutional duty cannot be delegated’”) (quoting *Osmunson v. State*, 135 Idaho 292, 17 P.3d 236, 240 (2000)); *Hurrell-Harring v. New York*, 15 N.Y.3d 8, 930 N.E.2d 217, N.Y.S.2d 296 (2010) (there is no constitutional or statutory mandate better established than the State’s duty to provide legal representation to indigent criminal defendants at all critical stages of proceedings); *Duncan v. State*, 284 Mich. App 246, 267-68, 288, 340-41, 774 N.W. 2d 89 (2009) (counties required to operate and fund courts and public defense, but this “does not relieve” the state of “constitutional duties under *Gideon*” and counties do not need to be parties to suit), *affirmed in part on other grounds*, 486 Mich. 906, *vacated*, 486 Mich. 1071, *affirmance in part reinstated*, 488 Mich. 957, *reconsideration denied*, 488 Mich. 1011 (2010) (permitting case against state to proceed in Michigan); *see also* trial court decision in *Phillips v. California* (Fresno County, CA Superior Court 2016).

In *Tucker*, the Supreme Court of Idaho ruled that the Fourteenth Amendment left no question that “[t]he State . . . has ultimate responsibility to ensure that the public defense system passes constitutional muster.” *Tucker*, 394 P.3d at 66. Idaho’s statutory public defense scheme is similar to Washington’s—counties bear substantial responsibility and must themselves provide

1 frontline indigent defense services. *Id. See* Idaho Code §19-859. Nevertheless, the court held that
2 Idaho’s analogue to OPD, the Idaho State Public Defense Commission, had authority to
3 implement Idaho’s constitutional duty to provide effective assistance of counsel and remedy
4 deficiencies by requiring the offending “county to explain how the failure will be remedied.”
5 *Tucker*, 394 P.3d at 69.

6 These principles apply equally to Washington State. The State may constitutionally
7 require counties to perform some public defense functions, but cannot abdicate the ultimate duty
8 to ensure the constitutionally required “assistance of counsel” for those who cannot afford to pay
9 for representation. OPD Director Joanne Moore has testified to the same effect, and written
10 exactly this.¹²⁸

11 Furthermore, for purposes of providing the “assistance of counsel,” counties are not
12 independent entities but are agents of the State. The Washington Constitution recognizes
13 counties as both “legal subdivisions” that are local agents of the state, and as municipal
14 corporations with legal authority to exercise general police regulatory powers. WASH. CONST.
15 ART. XI, §§ 1, 11. “...[C]ounties [are] political subdivisions of the State exercising involuntary
16 or mandatory duties, as distinguished from voluntary duties that municipal corporations may
17 exercise at their option.” Steve Lundin, *The Closest Governments to the People*, Washington
18 State University and self-published, at [http://mrsc.org/getmedia/1c25ae05-968c-4edd-8039-](http://mrsc.org/getmedia/1c25ae05-968c-4edd-8039-af0cf958baa7/Closest-Governments-To-The-People.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf)
19 [af0cf958baa7/Closest-Governments-To-The-People.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf](http://mrsc.org/getmedia/1c25ae05-968c-4edd-8039-af0cf958baa7/Closest-Governments-To-The-People.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf) at 83-84 (quoting *State*,
20 *ex rel. Summerfield v. Tyler*, 14 Wash. 495, 499, 45 P. 31 (1896)). There is no function that is
21 more clearly a constitutionally mandated *state* duty than the provision of public defense. The
22 State of Washington has ordered counties to implement the requirements of the right to counsel,
23 and the counties are plainly agents of the State, not independent entities, for this purpose. RCW
24 Chapters 10.101 and 36.26.

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¹²⁸ Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 87:6–88:5; Ex. 46.

1 **2. The right to the assistance of counsel is a positive constitutional right and the**
2 **State must provide more than the mere appointment of counsel**

3 Crucially, the right to counsel is not a limitation on what the State can do to its citizens,
4 but rather a demand that the State take action to protect its citizens from facing alone the drastic
5 consequences of prosecution. *See Avery v. Alabama*, 308 U.S. 444, 446, 60 S. Ct. 321, 322, 84 L.
6 Ed. 377 (1940) (“the guarantee ... cannot be satisfied by mere formal appointment”); *United*
7 *States v. Cronin*, 466 U.S. at 655 (the right includes requiring “the prosecution’s case to survive
8 the crucible of meaningful adversarial testing”); *State v. A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d at 98 (“not just an
9 appointment of counsel, but also effective assistance of counsel”). Thus the right to counsel is a
10 positive constitutional right. Jenna MacNaughton, *Positive Rights in Constitutional Law: No*
11 *Need to Graft, Best Not to Prune*, 3 U. PA. J. CONST. L. 750, 762 (2001)
12 <https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/jcl/vol3/iss2/5> (positive rights, including the right to counsel,
13 “require some affirmative act by the government to fulfill them”).

14 Positive constitutional rights empower the courts to order the State to take action when
15 the right is being violated. The Washington Supreme Court has explained that courts must
16 determine whether the State has abdicated its duty to secure positive constitutional rights:

17 The vast majority of constitutional provisions, particularly those set forth in the federal
18 constitution’s bill of rights and our constitution’s declaration of rights, are framed as
19 negative restrictions on government action. With respect to those rights, the role of the
20 court is to police the outer limits of government power, relying on the constitutional
enumeration of negative rights to set the boundaries. *See Helen Hershkoff, Positive*
Rights and State Constitutions: The Limits of Federal Rationality Review, 112 HARV. L.
REV. 1131, 1137 (1999).

21 This approach ultimately provides the wrong lens for analyzing positive constitutional
22 rights, where the court is concerned not with whether the State has done too much, but
23 with whether the State has done enough. Positive constitutional rights do not restrain
24 government action; they require it. The typical inquiry whether the State has overstepped
its bounds therefore does little to further the important normative goals expressed in
positive rights provisions. ...[I]n a positive rights context we must ask whether the state
action achieves or is reasonably likely to achieve “the constitutionally prescribed end.”
Hershkoff, *supra*, at 1137.

26 *McCleary v. State*, 173 Wn.2d 477, 519, 269 P.3d 227 (2012). *See also Braam ex rel. Braam v.*
27 *State*, 150 Wn.2d 689, 710, 81 P.3d 851 (2003) (courts have broad powers to require an adequate

1 response from government when dealing with constitutional rights of, in that case, children). In
2 positive rights cases, the judiciary must require the appropriate parts of state government to act in
3 ways that will adequately implement the right. *McCleary, supra; Tucker*, 394 P.3d at 72
4 (discussing role of court, legislature and agencies in systemic cases involving rights to counsel,
5 adequacy of education, and reapportionment).

6 Because the right to counsel is a positive constitutional right and the State bears the
7 ultimate responsibility for guaranteeing the right, the question before the Court is whether the
8 State (not a county) has “done enough” to “achieve[]” or is “reasonably likely to achieve” the
9 “constitutionally prescribed end.” Here, the constitutionally prescribed end is a juvenile public
10 defense system in the County that achieves “meaningful adversarial testing.” Given the glaringly
11 obvious constitutional deficiencies in County juvenile court, the State—despite knowledge of
12 these major defects—has not done nearly enough. The County’s juvenile public defense system
13 violates the constitutional right to counsel, in ways known to OPD but remains un-remedied,
14 requiring this Court’s declaration of the State’s authority and duty to act.

15 **C. The County’s juvenile public defense system violates the constitutional right to**
16 **counsel in ways known to OPD, yet to date un-remedied, requiring this Court’s**
declaration of the State’s authority and duty to act

17 **1. The County’s juvenile defense system fails to provide meaningful adversarial**
18 **testing, resulting in significant and large-scale harm to children**

19 As detailed in the Statement of Facts, the County’s juvenile public defense system is the
20 equivalent of no counsel at all, and children are being harmed by unnecessary time in detention
21 and prison as well as adverse records that can follow them for a lifetime. The forms of
22 constitutional violation, shown above, include: The County’s lack of any system for monitoring,
23 evaluation, or oversight of juvenile defenders, including lack of time records; continuing to
24 award the contract to attorneys who perpetuate lack of adversarial testing (not standing with or
25 speaking for clients, allowing clients to make admissions, failing to challenge extreme bail
26 amounts, failing to conduct minimally adequate sentencing advocacy, and failing to even
27 cursorily investigate charges before pleading clients guilty or allowing them to be detained on

1 probation violations, let alone challenging statements to police, looking into family history, or
2 schooling, or paying reasonable attention to clients' special needs as specified in the WSBA
3 guidelines); and, failing to provide for independence of the public defenders.

4 This system does not provide *advocacy* or, as stated by the Supreme Court, "meaningful
5 adversarial testing" of the serious charges against juveniles, many of which could result in years
6 of incarceration. Nor is there serious advocacy on the many probation violations that result in
7 many children serving 30 days in detention for relatively minor behavior that is virtually normal
8 for teenagers. The County's juvenile defense system is thus like the system described in *Wilbur*
9 *v. City of Mount Vernon*:

10 The attorney represents the client in name only...having no idea what the client's goals
11 are, whether there are any defenses or mitigating circumstances that require investigation,
12 or whether special considerations regarding immigration status, mental or physical
conditions, or criminal history exist. Such perfunctory 'representation' does not satisfy
the Sixth Amendment.

13 989 F. Supp. 2d 1122, 1128, 1131-32 (W.D. Wash. 2013) (systemic adversarial testing under
14 *Cronic* lacking where "shockingly low" number of defense files showed there had been
15 investigation, research, or cases set for trial); *see also Childress v. Johnson*, 103 F.3d 1221,
16 1224, 1231 (5th Cir. 1997) (counsel of "little or no[] assistance..." and "appointed counsel in the
17 county "routinely failed to discuss strategy with their clients, research the law, investigate the
18 facts, or otherwise go to bat for the accused;" in violation of *Cronic*, counsel "...was not the
19 advocate for the defense whose assistance is contemplated by the Sixth Amendment."); *Gardiner*
20 *v. United States*, 679 F. Supp. 1143 (D. Me. 1988) (failure to speak on defendant's behalf at
21 sentencing constituted constructive denial of assistance of counsel altogether under *Cronic*).

22 Moreover, this breakdown of any serious adversarial testing is not the problem of one
23 attorney, even though the current attorney demonstrates the constitutional flaws. The system
24 itself has been deficient for years, before the current attorney was given the contract. The
25 County's lack of any monitoring or evaluation system violates RCW 10.101.030, the American
26 Bar Association's *Ten Principles Of A Public Defense Delivery System*, and the WSBA
27 Standards for Indigent Defense Services, Standards 10 and 11. Ex. 47 at 3 (Principle 10); Ex. 48

1 at 11-12 (Standards 10, 11). And the continued lack of independence of the system and pressure
2 to conform to a culture of non-advocacy is contrary to the very first ABA principle.¹²⁹

3 This system of non-advocacy and lack of any accountability or quality control causes
4 tremendous harm. Children are likely kept in detention when they do not need to be; they are ill-
5 informed about the consequences of pleading guilty and other major legal decisions; and they are
6 sentenced to time in prison and saddled with criminal records that should be lessened; some are
7 no doubt denied a defense altogether by lack of investigation. *See A.N.J.*, 168 Wn.2d at 98-99
8 (“It is clear, even if not calculated, that the prosecution benefits from a system that discourages
9 vigorous defense and creates an economic incentive for indigent defense lawyers to plea
10 bargain.”). The County’s juvenile system provides counsel in name only, and systemically lacks
11 adversarial testing. As such, it is plainly unconstitutional.

12 **2. OPD knows of the County’s constitutional failures; the State must act**

13 As shown extensively above, OPD (and therefore the State) has known for years about
14 virtually all of the deficiencies—both systemic and in the courtroom—of the County juvenile
15 defense system. OPD has known much about non-advocacy for children and of a system set up
16 to support and encourage a lack of advocacy. OPD is well aware of the lack of monitoring or
17 evaluation and pressures against providing real advocacy for clients. And OPD knows the
18 essential facts about the lawyers in this deeply flawed system, who for years simply have not
19 represented their clients through failures to investigate, to challenge high bail amounts, to see
20 clients in time, to take action in time to prevent unnecessary detention, and to file motions that
21 any lawyer would file. OPD even knows about the current lawyer failing to stand with clients
22 while judges interrogate children about what they might have done.

23 This record demonstrates the need for judicial intervention to protect constitutional rights.
24 The *Wilbur* court recognized that to prevail in a public defense case the plaintiffs had to show
25 “irreparable injury and the lack of available legal remedies” but that this burden was “easily met”

26 ¹²⁹ Both of these deficiencies are well known to OPD, and OPD officials agree that these are major systemic flaws.
27 Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 113:20–114:5, 149:2–150:14, 155:7–156:10; Ex 3. (Johnson Dep.) 96:4–97:4; Ex. 1
(OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) 50:10–51:11, 66:1–16; Ex. 40.

1 when plaintiffs had proven systemic lack of adversarial testing:

2 the lack of an actual representational relationship and/or adversarial testing injures both
3 the indigent defendant and the criminal justice system as a whole. The exact impacts of
4 the constitutional deprivation are widespread but difficult to measure on a case by case
5 basis, making legal remedies ineffective.

989 F.Supp. 2d at 1133. Plaintiffs have shown the same here.

6 On this record, the State will be unable to show the existence of a dispute on the material
7 facts that demonstrate as a matter of law the unconstitutionality of the County juvenile defense
8 system, or any dispute as to the State's knowledge of the constitutionally significant facts of the
9 County's system. As is next shown, the State, as the party ultimately charged with the duty to
10 provide for this constitutional right, must be ordered to provide a remedy.

11 **D. The Constitution and Washington statutes require and empower the State to act,
12 and ample authority demonstrates that this Court should so declare**

13 The Constitution places on the State the ultimate duty to remedy an unconstitutional
14 public defense system that is known and obvious to State officials. This mandate both requires
15 and empowers the State, through OPD or otherwise, to act and this Court should so hold as a
16 matter of law.

17 OPD was created by the Legislature "[i]n order to implement the constitutional and
18 statutory guarantees of counsel and to ensure effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense
19 services funded by the state of Washington..." RCW 2.70.005. In addition to the constitutional
20 guarantee of "assistance" of counsel discussed above, a statutory demand for true "assistance" of
21 counsel is found in RCW 10.101.005: "The legislature finds that effective legal representation
22 must be provided for indigent persons and persons who are indigent and able to contribute,
23 consistent with the constitutional requirements of fairness, equal protection, and due process in
24 all cases where the right to counsel attaches."

25 Given the clear constitutional duty of the State to provide "assistance" of counsel and
26 these statutory provisions, OPD has been designated by the Legislature to step in when it knows
27 that a county is failing to provide the "assistance" of counsel. Yet OPD did not, even at a time

1 when it admits that the County's had systemic problems in the representation of juveniles (Ex. 1
2 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 76:14-20; Ex. 2 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 10:24-11:5, 112:12-21), and has not
3 currently, when virtually the same situation prevails though with a different lawyer, acted to
4 change the facially deficient County system.¹³⁰ OPD has not even mildly suggested to the
5 County that its system of juvenile defense is deficient. Ex. 1 (OPD 30(b)(6) Dep.) at 77:7-13.

6 Among its other duties, OPD is charged with conducting "oversight and technical
7 assistance to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of services in the office's program areas."
8 RCW 2.70.020(4). This statutory subsection was added in 2008 and on its face *expanded* OPD's
9 powers by adding the power to conduct "oversight." Laws of 2008, ch. 313. One of OPD's
10 specific program areas is determining eligibility for and distributing to counties and cities money
11 provided by the State to improve public defense under RCW Chapter 10.101.060-.090.

12 The State previously stated that 10.101 provides merely a pass-through of money that
13 automatically goes to counties.¹³¹ This is not true: The statute makes OPD far more than a
14 passive conduit. Only counties that continue to be eligible may receive the money that has been
15 allocated and OPD is specifically empowered to warn a county that they are not in substantial
16 compliance and to cancel funding if the noncompliance continues. RCW 10.101.060(2). OPD is
17 fully empowered to find the County out of compliance with the requirements for state funding
18 and start the process of remediation. RCW 10.101.060(1)(a)(i) *requires* OPD to make sure that,
19 among other things, a county has "a legal representation plan that addresses the factors in RCW
20 10.101.030." Yet the County's ordinance supposedly in conformity with section .030 does not
21 include any mention of attorney evaluation or monitoring, and the County's applications to OPD
22 for continued state funding concede year after year that there is no notification of a complaint
23 process and no evaluation system. Ex. 41; Ex. 35. Yet despite these consequential, admitted
24

25 ¹³⁰ The current juvenile defender has undergone some OPD training and OPD did become involved in trying to
26 resolve two egregious County juvenile cases that came to OPD's attention, but OPD has said nothing to *the County*
about the County's egregious deficiencies.

27 ¹³¹ "OPD's role is limited to *passing along* legislatively appropriated grant funds, as well as providing oversight and
technical support to counties." Defs' Reply In Support of Mot for Partial Judgment on the Pleadings at 1 (emphasis
added).

1 deficiencies that the State knows about and documents through its visits, OPD has not only failed
2 to inform the County of any 10.101 deficiency, OPD has not raised with the County any issue
3 regarding the County’s system of juvenile defense.¹³² OPD has also admitted that it would likely
4 continue to extend funding even if a county was abjectly failing to meet its requirements. Ex. 2
5 (Yeannakis Dep.) at 74:21-75:15, 76:22-78:5; 87:23-88:12, 124:5-24, 148:7-15); Ex. 1 (OPD
6 30(b)(6) Dep. 13:10-23, 100:7-13, 108:15-110:23); Ex. 3 (Johnson Dep. 58:2-61:24, 107:24-
7 108:6; 50:11-51:23).

8 When interpreting statutes like those at issue here, the court’s duty is to “ascertain and
9 carry out the Legislature’s intent.” *Dep’t of Ecology v. Campbell & Gwinn, LLC*, 146 Wn.2d 1,
10 9, 43 P.3d 4 (2002). “[I]f the statute’s meaning is plain on its face, then the court must give effect
11 to that plain meaning as an expression of legislative intent.” *Id.* at 9–10. The plain meaning “is
12 discerned from all that the Legislature has said in the statute and related statutes which disclose
13 legislative intent about the provision in question.” *Id.* at 11; *accord, Columbia Riverkeeper v.*
14 *Port of Vancouver USA*, 188 Wn.2d 421, 432, 395 P.3d 1031 (2017). These cases require
15 consideration of all the statutory sections in OPD’s statutes. *Id.* at 438 (“plain language”
16 analysis looks at “related provisions that illuminate legislative intent.”).

17 Dictionary definitions of “implement,” “ensure,” “oversight,” and “assistance” are further
18 part of applying the plain meaning rule, *id.* at 435, 437-38, and provide additional support for
19 concluding the statutes give OPD the authority in issue here. “Implement” means to “carry out,
20 accomplish” and “to give practical effect to and ensure of actual fulfillment by concrete
21 measures.” LANGENSCHIEDT’S NEW COLLEGE MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY
22 583 (1996). To “ensure” means to “make sure, certain, or safe” and to “guarantee.” *Id.* at 386.
23 “Oversight” means “regulatory supervision.” *Id.* at 830.

24 “Plain language analysis also looks to amendments to the statute’s language over time.”

25
26 ¹³² OPD could determine that due to the known deficiencies, some of which appear on the face of the funding
27 applications, the County is not in substantial compliance, but there is no evidence that has even been considered.
Indeed, OPD fails to even have a working definition of “substantial compliance” beyond the statutes. Ex. 1. (OPD
30(b)(6) Dep. 65:14–22). The statute does not allow OPD to simply pass through the 10.101 funds, but OPD is
very close to doing just that and ignoring its statutory responsibilities.

1 *Riverkeeper*, 188 Wn.2d at 440. As noted above, OPD’s authority was expanded in 2008 to add
2 to its powers “oversight” of trial-court-level public defense. And recognizing OPD’s authority to
3 act is also consistent with a practical interpretation of the statute, *id.* at 444, since it enables the
4 State to carry out its duties in enforcing the constitutional right to counsel.

5 In addition, the Legislature’s statement of the purposes of OPD to ensure constitutional
6 and statutory compliance with the right to counsel grants OPD powers to implement that charge.
7 Authority to carry out an agency’s core purposes is necessarily implied:

8 Agencies have implied authority to carry out their legislatively mandated purposes. When
9 a power is granted to an agency, “everything lawful and necessary to the effectual
10 execution of the power” is also granted by implication of law. Likewise, implied
11 authority is found where an agency is charged with a specific duty, but the means of
12 accomplishing that duty are not set forth by the Legislature. Agencies also have implied
13 authority to determine specific factors necessary to meet a legislatively mandated general
14 standard.

15 *Tuerk v. State Department of Licensing*, 123 Wn.2d 120, 125, 864 P.2d 1382 (1994) (citations
16 omitted). In *Brown v. Vail*, the Washington Supreme Court held that because the Superintendent
17 of the Department of Corrections had the express duty to “supervise” executions by lethal
18 injection, she also had the necessarily implied authority to establish the protocol by which lethal
19 injection would be administered. 169 Wn.2d 318, 330, 237 P.3d 263 (2010). The Court noted
20 that the appellants had underestimated the plain meaning of “supervise,” which means not to
21 passively observe and “plainly encompasses decision-making powers.” *Id.* at 330–31.

22 RCW 2.70.005 gives OPD the express duty “to implement the constitutional and statutory
23 guarantees of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense
24 services funded by the state of Washington.” The statutes also give the OPD Director explicit
25 authority to “[p]rovide oversight and technical assistance to ensure the effective and efficient
26 delivery of services in the office’s program areas,” which includes the RCW 10.101 funding.
27 RCW 2.70.020(1)(a), (4); RCW 10.101.050.

There is no ambiguity in these statutes. “[A] statute is not ambiguous merely because it
states a duty in general terms and provides an agency discretion to determine the ways in which

1 the duty may be met.” *Wash. State Coalition for the Homeless v. Dep’t of Social & Health*
2 *Servs.*, 133 Wn.2d 894, 907, 949 P.2d 1291 (1997). And, respectfully, the Court is charged to
3 apply all of the words of statutes, including statements of purpose and intent. *Spokane County*
4 *Health Dist. v. Brockett*, 120 Wn.2d 140, 151, 839 P.2d 324 (1992) (holding that “the preamble
5 or statement of intent can be crucial to interpretation of a statute”) (citing *Roy v. Everett*, 118
6 Wn.2d 352, 356, 823 P.2d 1084 (1992)).

7 As in *Brown v. Vail*, OPD may not “passively observe” the known system breakdown in
8 the County, especially given the active verbs the Legislature chose in describing OPD’s duties.
9 “To implement,” “to ensure,” and “to provide oversight and technical assistance” all encompass
10 the authority to intervene in the delivery of indigent public defense services. Thus RCW
11 2.70.005 grants OPD the authority to intervene if the constitutional and statutory guarantees of
12 counsel are not being upheld or the indigent defense services funded by the state are ineffective
13 or inefficient. These express duties necessarily imply the authority to hold counties accountable
14 for obvious and known constitutional or statutory violations.

15 Plaintiffs are aware of no action OPD or any state official has taken to even try to remedy
16 this situation. Instead, OPD has claimed it can do nothing.¹³³ OPD has not even done what the
17 Idaho Supreme Court ordered its commission to do, i.e., require the County to explain what it
18 will do to fix its deficient system. Constitutional demands and the relevant Washington statutes
19 do not allow—and they certainly do not require—the State to be passive in the face of this
20 obvious systemic constitutional violation.

21 This Court, without benefit of the updated factual context contained in this motion, in
22 effect ruled earlier in this case that OPD has no statutory authority to require the County to
23 reform its system. Plaintiffs asserted then, and re-assert now with the benefit of developed
24

25 ¹³³ Yeannakis Dep. at 74:21-75:15 (not aware of any specific remedy OPD could do in the face of a constitutional
26 violation); 76:22-78:5; 87:23-88:12 (OPD does not monitor and purports to lack authority to require constitutional
27 compliance); 124:5-24 (can offer training, but that has not resulted in improvement in the County); 148:7-15 (OPD
aware of deficient complaint system in the County but lacks power to force change); Moore Dep. at 108:15-
110:18; Johnson Dep. at 58:2-61:24 (“the state is not ensuring that the constitutional right to counsel is being
met”); 107:24-108:6; 50:11-51:23 (OPD provides no oversight of public defense services).

1 factual record, that OPD’s duties and powers must be viewed in light of the intersection of the
2 demands on the State created by the Constitution and the language of the OPD statutes. As is
3 shown above, the Constitution demands that the State has responsibility to act to change the
4 situation in the County, and OPD is the agency designated to do it.

5 Indeed, as detailed above, OPD is the only agency required to enforce standards for
6 public defense. Washington’s system of public defense contains a patchwork of written standards
7 in statutes and court rules, but for most of the standards there is no clear enforcement
8 mechanism. Counties are required to “adopt” standards for public defense, RCW 10.101.030, but
9 there is no requirement that counties enforce or implement the standards. *Compare* RCW
10 70.48.071 (counties must adopt jail standards and the jails “shall be operated in accordance with
11 these standards”). The Washington Supreme Court has promulgated court rules with standards
12 for public defenders and requirements for certification, CrR 3.1 CrRLJ 3.1 JuCR 9.2 Standards
13 for Indigent Defense, but there is no enforcement mechanism for these rules that are explicitly
14 only binding on attorneys and courts. By contrast, OPD is positioned and empowered to enforce
15 compliance with many of these standards.

16 OPD’s decision to take no action to try to change the known situation in the County is an
17 egregious violation of its statutory duty to uphold standards, even if OPD’s powers were limited
18 to purely statutory duties. OPD has clear authority through both the Constitution and Washington
19 statutes to take steps to remedy the known lack of adversarial testing in the County’s juvenile
20 public defense system.

21 And even beyond the RCW 10.101 funding process, OPD has ample statutory authority
22 to investigate, write reports, talk to or write to the County’s officials, state officials or legislators
23 about the obvious deficiencies in the system, or to take other action to bring to light the terrible
24 situation in the County that is harming children. Yet OPD has taken none of these obvious
25 available actions. OPD’s failure to act does not live up to its legislative mandate “to implement
26 the constitutional and statutory guarantees of counsel,” let alone the solemn constitutional duty
27 of the State. OPD is constitutionally and statutorily obligated to move to require change in the

County.¹³⁴

The State cannot decline to act in the face of knowledge of the unconstitutional system that is continually harming children in the County. The State is witnessing a continuous denial of constitutionally adequate representation for the County's children. To comply with its clear constitutional duty to remedy violations of the right to the "assistance" of counsel, and under OPD's statutory mandate, the State must be required to act.

V. CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs have requested a declaratory judgment that the State must act to fulfill its constitutional duty and to remedy the constitutional violation that it has allowed to continue despite knowing of the violation for many years. There is no issue as to any material fact and plaintiffs are entitled to this relief as a matter of law.

Alternatively, if the Court determines that there remain factual issues regarding whether the County's juvenile defense system is unconstitutional, the Court should grant partial summary judgment regarding the State's duty and authority to act to redress deficiencies at the county level. The State's duty is clear and yet is disclaimed by the State in this case. In the face of this disagreement, a declaration of rights is appropriate and legally supported. There is no genuine issue of fact that OPD, and therefore the State, has known of serious deficiencies in the provision of counsel in the County's juvenile court for years. Therefore, at a minimum, partial summary judgment is appropriate in the form of a ruling that the State must act to cure any constitutional violation that is established at trial. This is an issue of central importance in this case and an issue of public importance that should be decided before the parties are required to proceed to trial.¹³⁵

¹³⁴ Plaintiffs respectfully urge that, accordingly, the Plaintiffs' statutory claims should be reinstated.

¹³⁵ See *Washington State Coalition for the Homeless*, 133 Wn.2d 894, 916-918, 949 P.2d 1291 (1997) (discussing prerequisites for and need for declaratory judgments in cases of public importance).

1 DATED this 5th day of October, 2018.

2 STOKES LAWRENCE, P.S.

3
4 By: /s/ Mathew L. Harrington

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

1 **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby declare that on this 5th day of October, 2018, I caused a copy of the foregoing to
3 be:

4 ☒ electronically filed with the Clerk of the Court using the Thurston County E-Filing
system.

5 ☒ e-mailed pursuant to e-Service Agreement, to the following:

6 Counsel for Defendants State of Washington and
7 Washington State Office of Public Defense:

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18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
19 foregoing is true and correct.

20 EXECUTED at Seattle, Washington this 5th day of October, 2018.

21 /s/ Alicia Cason
22 Alicia Cason, Practice Assistant