

Marla McCowan

From: Erin Freers-Cole <efreers@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 01, 2017 9:28 AM
To: Comments
Subject: Economic Incentives and Disincentives Comments

Dear Indigent Defense Commission:

I am very concerned with the provisions relating to reimbursement of out of pocket expenses. While I appreciate the order that there be reimbursement (as this is not always the case) I find it very troubling that I am required to advance anything out of pocket at all.

As it is currently, I pay for videos, pictures, 911 calls, etc anything that the prosecutor does not have immediately in their possession. I have to then FOIA the information (that I believe should be part of discovery) from the police department and pay any costs associated with my request. I am usually reimbursed some 3-6 months later when the case resolves but honestly sometimes I forget to submit the bill. I find the reimbursement for experts very troubling as I am not sure that I would be able to front the cost for what would be needed since as things are now most experts make more on a case that I do.

I also think there should be more of a difference in hourly rates, \$10 more an hour for a capital case?? I would set the rates more at \$100 for misdemeanors \$150 for non life felonies and \$200 for life offenses. It is often said that if you want good people you have to pay them, I don't think attorneys are any different. I also think that those who do defend capital cases have for a very long time done it out of a sense of obligation and respect for the system and they finally deserve to be compensated.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

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