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Bcc:
Subject: Re: Public Defender Waitlist and Early Case Resolution Program

Thank you for your sincere and heartfelt email concerning our caseload crisis . While I appreciate the effort, our office is simply not interested in any sort of rocket docket that results in more poor people being fed into the system at a faster rate. Our office remains committed to due process, not "processing". However, we are happy to share some ideas that would benefit the system as a whole .

Why does the court immediately refer defendants to our office? Out of custody defendants should be set out for a minimum of 30 days and encouraged to hire private counsel. A list of criminal defense attorneys in the area could be provided by the court. These seems a better course than having the courts encourage everyone in the courtroom apply for a public defender as the default position .

Why are so many low level and non violent felony cases sent out with warrants ? This practice artificially inflates the jail population and places undue stress on the system to "process" cases quickly. Greene County has had tremendous success sending those types of cases out on a summons . I'm sure Dan Patterson would be happy to share his summons' experiences with you.

Stop with the systematic overfilling your office employs . For example, a simple shoplifting of \$3 worth of merchandise from Wal-Mart should not be charged as a Class B felony. It's practices such as this which artificially populates your jail and clogs the court with cases .

Stop appointing the public defender to misdemeanor PV's and felony PV's that don't involve laws violations.

If your expedited plan calls for deferred prosecutions and release from custody , then you hardly need our participation in the process .

As stated in our letter to the courts dated October 10, cases will be assigned when an attorney becomes available.

I will be in Forsyth the afternoon of the 6th if y'all would like to talk further .

Chris

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