



## WSBA COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE MEETING AGENDA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Washington State Bar Association, pursuant to RCW 42.30.080, that the Council on Public Defense meeting will be held on:

**June 12, 2020 | 11:00 to 11:30**

**VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY**

**For video and audio: <https://wsba.zoom.us/j/94651740313?pwd=ZjJmdXVjeGFwVUp3ZEg3SWdiTDVLU09>**

**Zoom Conference Call Lines: LOCAL OPTION: (253) 215-8782 || TOLL-FREE OPTION: (888) 788-0099**

**Meeting ID: 946 5174 0313 || Password: 248241**

The purpose of the meeting is for the Council to discuss, deliberate, and take potential final action regarding the following agenda items:

3 min	<b>Welcome and Roll Call</b>	Daryl Rodrigues	Discussion
27 min	<b>CPD Racial Justice Statement</b>	Daryl Rodrigues	Action

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please email [bonnies@wsba.org](mailto:bonnies@wsba.org).

Guests who are not members of the Council are not required to state their name to join this meeting.

Response by the Council on Public Defense to the Supreme Court's Call to Action  
After the Death of George Floyd

On June 4, 2020, Washington's Supreme Court called on the legal community to recognize that we all bear responsibility for the continuing injustices faced by Black Americans. The Council on Public Defense stands with the Supreme Court and acknowledges the unique role public defenders play in eradicating injustice. We agree with the Supreme Court that it is our moral imperative to join in the efforts to eliminate systemic racism from our courts.

Public defenders have the honor and the obligation to provide representation to those accused of crimes, at risk of losing their families, or otherwise held against their will. We believe unambiguously that Black lives matter. We recognize that our clients are disproportionately persons of color. And while injustice may happen on the street when our clients are wrongfully or unnecessarily arrested, it is amplified in the courtroom when judges, public defenders, and prosecutors fail to recognize the role race plays in the prosecution of Black and Brown people.

Public defenders must work to change these wrongs. Our offices must be committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Persons of color must be recruited, retained, and elevated to leadership positions. Justice cannot happen until our offices reflect our communities and those we represent.

As the Supreme Court stated, all those involved in the courts must recognize their role in devaluing Black lives. Public defenders must commit to embracing anti-racism, eliminating explicit and implicit biases, and advocating to dismantle white supremacy in the legal system. We must examine our own biases and blind spots and create opportunities for others to do the same. We cannot continue to ignore the foundations of racism and brutality which plague our nation. Instead, we must face those biases and declare that enough is enough. Change is long past due.

This call is collective and individual. Public defense must recognize the role it plays in perpetuating a system of injustice but also embrace its ability to provide the leadership necessary to make change, not only in this moment but also in establishing sustained and meaningful progress toward equality and humanity.