



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 23, 2019

DATE: Friday, July 19, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jamie Rodriguez, Government Affairs Manager
775-328-2010, JARodriguez@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: David Solaro, Interim County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve, on staff recommendation that the board nominate; Kate Thomas and Jamie Rodriguez to the Governor for the Board on Indigent Defense Services as the Washoe County Commission's nominees to submit to the Governor to fill a term to end on June 30, 2022. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The 80th Nevada Legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 81 (AB 81) which became effective on July 1, 2019. AB 81 creates the Department of Indigent Defense and the Board of Indigent Defense Services through the Office of the Governor. The committee consists of 13 voting members and 2 ex officio members, with one member appointed by the Governor based on the nominees submitted by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. Staff is recommending Kate Thomas and Jamie Rodriguez be submitted as the nominees to the Governor for appointment to the board.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Regional and Community Leadership.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous actions have been taken by the board on this appointment.

BACKGROUND

The 80th Nevada Legislature recently passed Assembly Bill 81 (AB 81) which becomes effective on July 1, 2019. AB 81 creates the Department of Indigent Defense and the Board of Indigent Defense Services. The Board is required to review information concerning indigent defense services in the State and establish: (1) minimum standards for the delivery of indigent defense services; and (2) procedures for receiving and resolving complaints concerning the provision of indigent defense services. The Board is further required to establish standards for providing indigent defense services, which include continuing education requirements for attorneys who provide indigent defense

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services, uniform tracking of information by such attorneys and guidelines for maximum caseloads of such attorneys.

The recommended appointment to the Commission must have:

- (a) Significant experience providing legal representation to indigent persons who are charged with public offenses or to children who are alleged to be delinquent or in need of supervision;
- (b) A demonstrated commitment to providing effective legal representation to such indigent persons; or
- (c) Expertise or experience, as determined by the appointing authority, which qualifies the person to contribute to the purpose of the Board or to carrying out any of its functions.

The appointment to the Commission is not to be:

- (a) A judge, justice or judicial officer;
- (b) A Legislator or other state officer or employee;
- (c) A prosecuting attorney or an employee thereof;
- (d) A law enforcement officer or employee of a law enforcement agency;
- (e) An attorney who in his or her position may obtain any financial benefit from the policies adopted by the Board;
- (f) Currently employed within the Department of Indigent Defense Services;
- (g) Currently employed by a public defender; or
- (h) Currently employed by any other attorney who provides indigent defense services to a contract with a county.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with Washoe County's making nominations to or participating on the Board of Indigent Defense Services.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve, staff recommendation, Kate Thomas and Jamie Rodriguez as the Washoe County Commission's nominations to the Governor for appointment to the Board of Indigent Defense Services to fill a term ending June 30, 2022.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board of County Commissioners agree to the recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“Move to nominate Kate Thomas and Jamie Rodriguez as the Washoe County Commission's nominations to the Governor for the appointment to the Board of Indigent Defense Services to fill a term ending June 30, 2022.”*