

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive comments on SB 474 and for your attention to public defense in Oregon. My name is Eric Landon, and I am currently a third-year law student at the Lewis & Clark Law Criminal Defense Clinic. I participated in this clinic to gain real-world experience representing clients and to help alleviate the critical shortage of public defense representation in Oregon.

Roughly halfway through the one-year clinic, I have appeared on behalf of over a dozen indigent defendants in Multnomah County. As part of my appearances, I have written and submitted motions that resulted in dismissals, defended my client at trial, helped clients negotiate and enter pleas, and resolved cases through civil compromises.

The practical skills I have learned as part of this clinic are arguably the most valuable I will take away from law school.

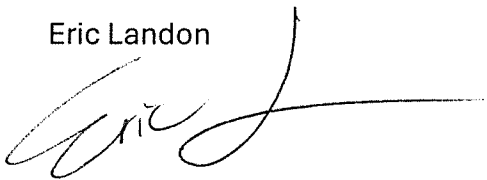
The clinic is valuable to the community by providing current defendants with the representation that they deserve as well as training law students in a way that will result in competent public defense attorneys upon graduation.

I sincerely believe that the clinic should not only continue into future years but should also be a model for providing law students with practical skills that they do not otherwise get in law school.

I urge the committee to support continued funding for the law school public defense clinics through SB 474.

Sincerely,

Eric Landon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Landon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.