The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Washington Defender Association (WDA) was established in 1983 as a professional association and resource center for public defenders in Washington; and

WHEREAS, the WDA has over 1,600 members from across the state representing organized offices, contract defenders and assigned counsel; and

WHEREAS, the WDA's accomplishments include the creation *Standards for Public Defense Services* which were endorsed by the WSBA in 1985 and 1990 and referenced in RCW 10.101; and

WHEREAS, the WDA worked toward the establishment of and participation in numerous task forces on public defense services that have led to reforms including passage of RCW 10.101 in 1989 which mandated that local government establish standards; and

WHEREAS, the WDA provided over 500 Continuing Legal Education Seminars and responded to over 65,000 technical assistance requests through its resource attorneys and appeared as amicus counsel in over 100 state and federal appellate court cases, addressing right to counsel, sentencing, immigration, and evidentiary issues; and; and

WHEREAS, the WDA provides national and state legislative advocacy to improve public defense services and to protect the rights of public defense clients and represents Washington public defenders on numerous organizations and work groups nationally and throughout Washington State;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim December 14, 2018 to be

The 35th Anniversary of the Washington Defender Association

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 14th day of December, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee