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| **DIDS Attorney Observation Report** | | **Reviewer** | Derrick Lopez |
| Date | December 10, 2024 | County | Humboldt |
| Court | Sixth Judicial District Court | Judge | Michael Montero |
| Defense Attorney | Debra Amens | Prosecutor(s) | Aaron Russell and Stephen Girardot  Deputy District Attorneys |
| Attorney Present | In Person / Virtual / w/Client | Number of Clients | 2 |
| Defendants Present | In Person / Virtual / Off-Site | Custodial Status | IC / OOC / Blend |
| Number of Clients  In custody | 0 | Number of Clients Out-of-Custody | 2 |
| Cases Continued  In Custody | 0 | Cases Continued  Out-of-Custody | 2 |
| Hearing Types | Arraignments | | |
| **Attorney's Preparedness** | | | |
| Did the Attorney appear for court? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney have the file? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney appear to have had a substantive, confidential meeting with  each client before court? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney appear prepared to handle their clients' cases? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **How prepared did the Attorney appear?**  Debra appeared to be prepared for court. | | | |
| **How knowledgeable was the Attorney about their cases?**  Debra appeared to be knowledgeable about her cases. | | | |
| **The Attorney's courtroom advocacy skills were:**  Good. | | | |
| **How was the Attorney/client communication?**  The attorney-client communication appeared to be good. | | | |
| **Case Stage-Specific Issues** | | | |
| Did the Attorney argue for pretrial release/OR, or for reasonable bail? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney counsel each client to refrain from waiving trial rights until the  attorney completed investigation of the case? | | | Yes / No / Unknown |
| Did the Attorney appear to have counseled clients to refrain from waiving any  rights at arraignment? | | | Yes / No / Unknown |
| Did the Attorney appear to adequately advise clients of the Consequences of  accepting a plea or going to trial, including any collateral consequences? | | | Yes / No / Unknown |
| Did the Attorney present mitigating evidence and provide argument at  sentencing? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the Attorney address the Presentence Investigation Report (PSI) and/or  Psychosexual Evaluation/Risk Assessment appropriately? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Did the court require defendant(s) to reimburse the entity for representation? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **Overall Assessments** | | | |
| Does the Attorney appear to have a sustainable workload? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Overall, does the Attorney appear to be providing effective representation to  their clients? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **Remarks/Recommendations/Notes:**   * One of Debra’s clients did not appear for his Arraignment today. Debra requested that the hearing be continued. There was a new offer from the State that the client accepted. The State needs to prepare the Guilty Plea Agreement. The client knew that the case would need to be continued to get the GPA prepared, signed, and filed. Debra said that the client may have thought that because the case would need to be continued that he did not need to be in court today. The State asked for a bench warrant but that it should be stayed one week for the client to appear in court. The court ordered that the hearing be continued to 12/17/2024. * One of Debra’s clients had an Arraignment today. At the start of the hearing, Judge Montero informed the parties that the client has participated in both the Drug Court and the Family Court before Judge Montero. The client failed the Drug Court program. The defense requests that the Judge recuse himself. Judge Montero recuses himself from the case. The Arraignment will be continued to another date with a different judge. The court clerks will notify the parties of the new court date. | | | |