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| **DIDS Attorney Observation Report** | | **Reviewer** | Derrick Lopez |
| Date | October 29, 2024 | County | Douglas |
| Court | Tahoe Justice Court | Judge | Michael Johnson |
| Defense Attorney | Matt Stermitz | Prosecutor(s) | William Murphy  Deputy District Attorney |
| Attorney Present | In Person / Virtual at Jail | Number of Clients | 3 |
| Defendants Present | In Person / Virtual / Off-Site | Custodial Status | IC / OOC / Blend |
| Hearing Types | Arraignment and Pretrial Conferences | | |
| **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?**  Matt appeared prepared for court. | | | |
| **How knowledgeable was the Attorney about their cases?**  Matt appeared to be knowledgeable about his cases. | | | |
| **The Attorney's courtroom advocacy skills were:**  Matt did a good job advocating for his clients during the court hearing. | | | |
| **How was the Attorney/client communication?**  The attorney-client communication appeared to be good. However, one of Matt’s clients was released on his O.R. at the conclusion of the last hearing and was immediately picked up by ICE at the Douglas County Jail. That client did not appear in court today. The court issued a bench warrant in the amount of $1,000 cash only for the client. | | | |
| **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 / N/A |
| 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** | | | |
| Stermitzs the Attorney appear to have a sustainable workload? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| Overall, Stermitzs the Attorney appear to be providing effective representation to their clients? | | | Yes / No / N/A |
| **Remarks/Recommendations/Notes (continue on reverse):**   * One of Matt’s clients pled guilty to 2 misdemeanors (Poss of Drug Not Lawfully Introduced Into Interstate Commerce and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia) pursuant to settlement negotiations. The court followed the joint sentencing recommendation which included concurrent suspended 120 day jail sentences, with conditions of sobriety, testing, supervision by the Department of Alternative Sentencing, and a fine of $300. The felony charge was dismissed.   **Remarks/Recommendations/Notes (continued from previous page):**   * Matt informed the court that a sister of one of his clients told him that she had retained counsel for the client. The case was continued for one week to 11/5/2024 for the new attorney to appear. | | | |

Remarks/Recommendations/Notes, continued:

* One of Matt’s clients