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| **DIDS Attorney Observation Report** | | **Reviewer** | Derrick Lopez |
| Date | May 20, 2025 | County | Lander |
| Court | Eleventh Judicial District Court | Judge | Jim Shirley |
| Defense Attorney | Debra Amens | Prosecutor(s) | Michael MacDonald  Deputy District Attorney |
| Attorney Present | In Person / Virtual / w/Client | Number of Clients | 1 |
| Defendants Present | In Person / Virtual / Off-Site | Custodial Status | IC / OOC / Blend |
| Number of Clients  In custody | 0 | Number of Clients Out-of-Custody | 1 |
| Cases Continued  In Custody | 0 | Cases Continued  Out-of-Custody | 1 |
| Hearing Types | Arraignment hearing | | |
| **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 prepared for court. | | | |
| **How knowledgeable was the Attorney about their cases?**  Debra appeared to be knowledgeable about her case. | | | |
| **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 / N/A |
| 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:**  Debra had 1 client on today’s court calendar:   1. First Client: **Arraignment hearing**. The client is out of custody and present in person.  * Prior to the court hearing beginning, the client was tested for controlled substances by Pretrial Services. The court and parties were informed that the client tested presumptive positive for controlled substances today. * The court noted that this is the 3rd failed test for the client. The first was on 4/22/2025 when the client failed to provide a urine sample for testing. The second failure was on 5/6/2025 when the client tested positive for controlled substances. The third failure is today when the client again tested positive for controlled substances. * Debra argued for her client to remain out of custody. She explained that her client is waiting on a bed at a residential treatment program and he plans to enter that treatment as soon as a bed is available. * The State argued that the bail should be revoked and the client remanded into custody * The court ordered that the bail be revoked. The court continued the arraignment to 6/3/2025 at 1:30 p.m. * Debra requested that the client be allowed to enter an inpatient treatment program from the jail. * The State requested that the court not allow the client to be released from jail until after his arraignment date. * The court stated that it will not authorize the jail to release the client to inpatient treatment until after the court hearing in 2 weeks. * [Note: I did not hear whether the court set a bail amount or set a no bail hold on his current arrest and custody status.] | | | |