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| **DIDS Attorney Observation Report** | | **Reviewer** | Derrick Lopez |
| Date | February 5, 2025 | County | Douglas |
| Court | East Fork Justice Court | Judge | Laurie Trotter |
| Defense Attorney | Matt Stermitz | Prosecutor(s) | William Murphy  Deputy District Attorney |
| Attorney Present | In Person / Virtual / w/Client | Number of Clients | 3 (5 cases) |
| Defendants Present | In Person / Virtual / Off-Site | Custodial Status | IC / OOC / Blend |
| Number of Clients  In custody | 2 | Number of Clients Out-of-Custody | 1 |
| Cases Continued  In Custody | 1 | Cases Continued  Out-of-Custody | 0 |
| Hearing Types | Status hearings | | |
| **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:**  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 / 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** | | | |
| 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:**  Matt had 3 clients on the court calendar today:   1. Matt’s first client was in custody and set for a Status hearing. However, the client was too ill to come up to court (the client requested to remain in her cell). The case was continued to 2/12/2025 at 1:30 p.m. Matt informed the court that the case has been negotiated. The resolution will be put on the record next week. 2. Matt’s second client was in custody on a new offense (DUI-2nd). The client was also on calendar for 2 other cases: a Status hearing and a probation violation. The parties reached a settlement on the 2 older cases. The client pled guilty to an amended charge of misdemeanor Drug Not Lawfully Introduced Into Interstate Commerce and admitted the probation violation. The parties jointly recommended that the client be sentenced to 30 days jail, suspended for 1 year, on conditions, and pay a fine of $500 + $140 in fees and assessments. The parties agreed to recommend that this sentence run concurrently with the probation violation case.   The parties further agreed to recommend that the client be reinstated on probation.  The court followed the joint sentencing recommendation and reinstated the client on probation.  A Review hearing regarding payment of $640 as set for 5/23/2025 at 9:00 a.m.  The court released the client on his own recognizance and set the new case for an arraignment on a DUI-second offense on 3/5/2025 at 2:00 p.m.   1. Matt’s third client had a status hearing. The parties reached a settlement agreement. The client pled guilty to Driving on a Suspended License with a joint sentencing recommendation of 4 days jail or $740 in fines, fees, and assessments. The client has credit for 2 days time served. [Note: the client was offered a continuance to obtain a driver’s license and have a better recommendation, but the client turned down that offer explaining that it would cost him $1,500 to reinstate his license and his car has been repossessed and he simply doesn’t want to pursue that option]. The court followed the joint sentencing recommendation. The client chose to serve the 4 day jail sentence rather than pay the $740. He is to turn himself in on 2/6/2025 at 10:00 a.m. to serve the balance of 2 days jail. | | | |