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October 23, 2024

Governor Joe Lombardo
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Via U.S. mail and
rcherry@gov.nv.gov

Re: Resignation as Nevada State Public Defender

Dear Governor Lombardo:

I am honored that you appointed me the Nevada State Public Defender. I appreciated your trust in my abilities. I have enjoyed the work and serving the State in this position. Recently, I watched the video recording of the BIDS meeting held on October 17, 2024. I was unable to attend the meeting in person, but I engaged a lawyer, Rew Goodenow, to appear to represent me. The Board discussed my legal qualifications based on misinformation for more than an hour. They knew that the Board had no statutory authority to discipline me for any alleged misconduct. Yet, the Board publically made numerous negative comments about my legal abilities with the intent to harm my reputation.

I believe the Board's public statements about my legal skills will make it impossible for me to successfully represent clients in White Pine County. I already had to withdraw as counsel for one client, and I expect I will have to withdraw from more cases in the future. This situation is not good for my clients nor me. Therefore, I am resigning effective on November 1, 2024.

Again I wish to praise the superior staff in the Nevada State Public Defender's office. The members are: lawyers Derrick Penney and Jim Hoffman, investigator William Simpson, and our Administrative staff Melanie La Chappelle, Kristi Valencia and Delaney Mott. They all provide excellent service to our clients and the State. I have been privileged to work with them and I leave the office in their capable hands.

You have my continued support, and if I can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks again for appointing me.

Sincerely,

Patricia D. Cafferata, Esq.

Cc: Peter Handy, DIDS