

Summit

Legal

Defenders

Andrea Whitaker
Director

Scott A. Rilley
Deputy Director
Jill C. Cabe
Managing Attorney
Michael Gabelman
Managing Attorney
Angela Kille
Managing Attorney
Abigail M. Schock
Training Director

Kelly Krol
Office Manager

Allison White
Juvenile Case Coordinator

STAFF ATTORNEYS

Dezerae J. Albert
James D. Bernhardt
C. Adam Carro
Melissa Frangos
Jeremy Gilpatric
Madison Karn
Andrew Karpinski
Michael P. Kranek
Rachel Lipford
Marcus M. Lombardi
William L. Millard
Brittany Morales
Russel T. Nichols
Brittany M. Pellerin
Shaliek Riggsbee-Powell
Brandi Roberts
Bethany P. Shockey
John Stiles
Josh Weemhoff

November 29, 2023

Dear Aparna Wheeler:

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a wonderful 2023.

I have attached the 2024 contract for legal services. There are two changes that I would like to explain. The first is the fee per case. We have charged \$170 for many years. The fee is now \$210.00 per case. \$210 per case is well below what can be billed by an attorney in private practice appointed to a misdemeanor case. In fact, it is roughly 90% less expensive. (The current limits for appointed counsel are \$2,000 for a non-OVI misdemeanor and \$2,500 for an OVI charge.) While any increase is not a welcome modification, the changes we have made in our office over the past three years to provide effective representation for your citizens make this moderate increase reasonable. We have doubled in size and placed additional attorneys in all courts that we staff. We have hired well respected attorneys from the community, such as Scott Rilley our new Deputy Director, and have added managing attorneys, a training director and a social worker. Please visit <https://www.summitlegaldefenders.org/> to see our growth.

The other change contained in the 2024 contract is the inclusion of municipal code violations filed in the Summit County Juvenile Court. You will only be charged if the juvenile complaint is comprised of solely municipal code violations. The Office of the Ohio Public Defender recently notified me that these charges should have been included in your contracts previously. Few of these are filed every year so the impact will be minimal.

Please feel free to contact me with questions about these changes or any additional questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Andrea Whitaker

Andrea Whitaker, Director