



## Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid

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To: Hon. David Estudillo, SCJA President  
Chris Gaddis, AWSCA  
Kimberly Allen, WSACC

From: Jim Bamberger, Director Office of Civil Legal Aid  
Philippe Knab, Eviction Defense Program Manager

Re: RTC Implementation Memo No. 6

Date: 9-24-21

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This memo is intended to update SJCA members on the status of OCLA's right to counsel (RTC) implementation:

OCLA continues to work with Superior Court Judges and Administrators statewide to secure RTC appointment protocols. Seventeen (17) courts have submitted appointment orders or memoranda of understanding detailing the RTC appointment process. Several additional counties are in active communication with OCLA regarding screening and appointment protocols. Additionally, OCLA has been in regular contact with contracting legal service providers to ensure that quality representation will be available statewide. RTC attorneys are hired and trained in majority of counties with the remainder in place. Attached please find most recent update spreadsheet detailing RTC attorney capacity and presence of appointment protocol.

As many have no doubt heard the Governors Bridge [Proclamation 21-09](#) has been extended through 10-31-21 to provide time for local governments to access and distribute available rent assistant to landlords and tenants. This extension does not change OCLA's RTC implementation timetable. Notably, many eviction actions – including for non-payment of rent for the months of September and October – will be allowed to proceed. Thus, the only remaining obstacle in these cases is the certification of RTC availability.

As of now, OCLA is preparing to certify the following counties on October 1, 2021 with RTC operations to begin on October 4<sup>th</sup>: We will be certifying counties on a rolling basis thereafter with a stated goal of having all counties certified on or before October 31, 2021.

- Jefferson
- Skamania
- Pacific
- Lewis
- Grays Harbor

- San Juan
- King
- Snohomish
- Pierce
- Okanogan
- Spokane
- Clark

Please feel free to send questions directly to us using the e-mail address [evictiondefense@ocla.wa.gov](mailto:evictiondefense@ocla.wa.gov)