



“Anders briefs are intended to be used in cases where there are no legal arguments to be made on behalf of one’s client,” said Bowman. “In both of these cases, clear legal arguments were available, but were ignored by the Public Defender’s office.”

The lawsuit argues that the Public Defender’s staff shortage combined with excessive appointments have led to the office’s failure to adequately represent its clients. The suit contends that the Public Defender files Anders motions as a way to reduce its backlog of appeals. The Public Defender views Anders motions as a simple, quick way to dispose of unwanted cases, the suit contends.

The MacArthur Justice Center is a non-profit public interest law firm affiliated with the University of Chicago Law School. It was founded in 1985 by the J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation to fight for human rights and social justice through litigation. The center concentrates on cases that raise constitutional or significant issues in the field of criminal justice.

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