

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for WDA's proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4  
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**From:** Chris Van Vechten [mailto:chris@soundlawyering.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:01 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for WDA's proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

I write today in support of WDA's proposed changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4 which are designed to limit the number of court appearances a defendant must physically be present for.

I am admittedly concerned as to how this will pan out. I have represented indigent clients for more than 6 years now and am aware that they often struggle with things like cellphone stability and so court appearances are often the only time we communicate. However, many of my clients also struggle with transportation stability and even being one minute late in some jurisdictions is sufficient to issue a bench warrant which, if nothing else, creates administrative hassle because then a subsequent quash hearing must be set and new dates must be picked. I have also witnessed pretrial services become a tool of the prosecutor's office despite the initial mission of being an aide to the defense. Appearing at court but failing to check in at the pre-trial services office on the same day (perhaps because PTS closed before they got there) can also be the basis for imposing a sanction.

Candidly the amount of time and attention we focus on concerning whether or not a defendant appeared at a pretrial hearing is pretty ridiculous and distracts from the allegations that apparently justify the interference.

So for those reasons, I support the modification to the language of the aforementioned court rules.

Respectfully,

Chris Van Vechten

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