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September 30, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Honorable Charles W. Johnson  
Supreme Court Rules Committee  
c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court  
Temple of Justice  
PO Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Comment on Proposed GR 7 Amendment

Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:

On behalf of the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA), I am writing to oppose adoption of the Washington State Association of County Clerks' proposal to amend GR 7.

The DMCJA supports notice and comment for proposed local rules. However, most jurisdictions already engage in some type of discussion with affected users when a new local rule is proposed. The proposed rule requires notice to the local bar, the county prosecutor, the county clerk, the county public defender and notice to the court's website for 30 days. This amendment does not apply to many limited jurisdiction courts. For example, in a smaller municipality, noticing the county prosecutor, public defender and clerk would serve no purpose. Some smaller jurisdictions have a less formalized bar association and may not maintain a web presence. The proposed amendment would need to be re-written to be applicable to limited jurisdiction courts or limited to Superior Courts local rulemaking only.

For these reasons, the DMCJA requests that you reject the proposed amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

s/Judge Michelle K. Gehlsen  
DMCJA President

Honorable Charles W. Johnson

September 30, 2020

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Cc: Judge Jeffrey Goodwin, DMCJA Rules Chair  
Ms. Shannon Hinchcliffe, WSSC Rules Staff  
Ms. J Benway, DMCJA Rules Staff

**From:** [Benway, Jennifer](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicpon, Dory](#); [Goulet, Susan](#); [Hahn, Sondra](#)  
**Subject:** FW: DMCJA Comment on GR 7 proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:06:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [DMCJA Cmt Ltr re GR 7 proposed amendment.docx](#)

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FYI – thank you!

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**From:** Benway, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 5:04 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** DMCJA Comment on GR 7 proposal

Hello,

Attached please find attached District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) comments regarding the WSACC proposal to amend GR 7.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**J Benway**

Legal Services Senior Analyst

Administrative Office of the Courts

360-357-2126

**Get the most current information on the Courts' response to COVID-19 [here](#).**