

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR CLALLAM COUNTY

JUDGES
George L. Wood
Ken Williams
S. Brooke Taylor



Courthouse
223 East Fourth Street, Suite 8
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015

COMMISSIONER
W. Brent Basden

(360) 417-2386
Seattle 464-7098

December 13, 2011

Supreme Court Clerk
Attention: Camilla Faulk
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed GR 31A

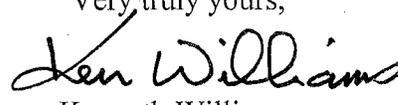
Dear Ms. Faulk:

The Clallam County Superior Court judges are in accord with the comments submitted by the Thurston County bench. The proposed rule would impact us most significantly at the present time, in light of our county's economic situation. With little help from the State, the Superior Court budget is being cut to the degree where it may be impossible for us to continue our mandated functions. Proposed GR 31A adds additional and potentially quite burdensome functions to our current duties. Clallam County has a maximum security prison within Clallam County and already we are inundated with lengthy, difficult to read and process, inmate litigation. The proposed rule would likely lead to a significant increase in the duties of the only two Superior Court personnel we have, our Court Administrator and our Deputy Court Administrator (who also serves as our typist and a fill-in court reporter). As a smaller county we do not have sufficient personnel to assign to these matters so that they may be timely handled while we attend to matters which have more significant priorities.

Like the Thurston County Superior Court judges, we strongly support openness and transparency of courts and court processes. However, unless we are provided some additional resources to assist us, we do not believe it is possible that we could meet the mandates of the proposed rule. The impact on our citizens would likely be to reduce open and effective access to the court in a timely manner. The rule, if it is to be imposed at all, should be redrafted to consider those priorities and to balance them appropriately.

With kindest regards,


George L. Wood
JUDGE

Very truly yours,

Kenneth Williams
JUDGE


S. Brooke Taylor
JUDGE

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