



# Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators

April 24, 2015

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The Honorable Charles Johnson, Chair  
Washington State Supreme Court Rules Committee  
Temple of Justice  
415 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
P.O. Box 41174  
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Comment on Proposed Amendments to Court Transcriptionist Rules

Dear Justice Johnson:

On behalf of the Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators (AWSCA), and as an active member of the Court Management Council, I write in support of the Suggested Amendments to SPRC 3; RAP 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 18.9; CR 43, 80; ARLJ 13; RALJ 5.3; CRLJ 75 and Suggested New Rules: CR, CrR, and GR. However, I respectfully ask the Court to adopt these proposed amendments with one exception, as outlined below.

AWSCA members have actively participated in the drafting of the proposed amendments in conjunction with the Court Management Council. Court administrators were integrally involved due, in large part, to their individual roles in vetting and selecting prospective transcribers to work in and for their respective, local courts. The absence of minimum transcriber qualifications has created an environment in which the same transcribers are approved in some counties and rejected in others because court leaders are uniquely evaluating transcriber candidates using different criteria. The suggested amendments propose to set a single baseline qualification standard across county lines to preserve the high quality of transcripts and ensure the credibility of local transcription practices.

Accordingly, I ask the Court to adopt the suggested amendments with one exception. In the "New Rule – Official Certified Superior Court Transcripts (d)," I would ask the Court to remove "or different" in the last sentence, as follows:

Except as otherwise ordered by the court the minimum qualification to become an authorized transcriptionist in order to complete and file an official certified court transcript from electronically recorded proceedings is certification as a court reporter or certification by AAERT (American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers) or proof of one year of supervised mentorship with a certified court reporter or an authorized transcriptionist. Courts may require additional ~~or different~~ qualifications at their discretion.

Received  
Washington State Supreme Court

APR 29 2015

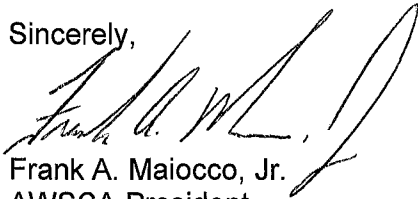
Ronald R. Carpenter  
Clerk

The practical effect of retaining these two words is that the status quo will be maintained, and the fundamental purpose of the suggested amendments will be undermined.

With this one change, the Association of Washington Superior Court Administrators joins the Court of Appeals Rules Committee, the Superior Court Judges' Association, the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association, the Washington State Association of County Clerks, and the Board for Judicial Administration in urging the Supreme Court's adoption of the amendments as originally submitted by the Court Management Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Maiocco, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Frank A. Maiocco, Jr.  
AWSCA President  
Kitsap County Superior Court Administrator