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Dear Honorary Members of the Supreme Court Rules Committee:

As a Washington State Certified Court Reporter, with a 30-plus-year career in this industry, I am writing to urge you to adopt the proposed changes to 28(c), (d) and (e). I believe in providing equal and neutral terms to all litigants, making sure that transcripts are offered to all parties when ordered and delivered to all parties simultaneously at equal rates for equal services in a case. The legitimacy of our judicial system rests on not only the actual, but the *perceived* impartiality of all officers of the court, including those who preside over and report depositions.

Regarding 28(c), I believe the changes outlined will prohibit the practice of insurance companies and large corporations entering into exclusive agreements or contracts with court reporting firms or networks that require the provision of preferential services and pricing offered to one of the party litigants that are not offered equally to all of the parties.

With regard to 28 (d), the proposed change to 28(d) will allow for a system in place wherein court reporters and, very importantly, court reporting firms can be required to show proof of equal terms and be held accountable by being required to sign an affidavit of equal terms upon request.

And regarding 28(e), all certified court reporters should have complete and final control of their transcripts. The proposed change to 28(e) will prevent contracting court reporting firms from making changes to transcripts after the original transcript has been completed. It will also allow certified court reporters to ensure equal terms have been provided to all parties, which has already been called out in the rule, but there are currently no requirements to enforce this. Lastly, it will prevent unethical and unscrupulous "stretching" of transcripts by changing the characters per line of the transcript in order to create a longer transcript to bill for.

The adoption of CR 80, which currently reads "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 or at their discretion" should exclude the unintentionally added words "or different" in the last sentence. This changes the intent of the proposed rule entirely. Please adopt the proposed amendment to 80(d) as well. RAP 9.2(g) is important and should be adopted because the official record should be transcribed by the court reporter who actually reported the proceedings.

Thank you for your time and attention,

BARBARA J. SCOVILLE, CCR
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Tracy, Mary

From: Hinchcliffe, Shannon
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: WCRA Rules Letter
Attachments: Rules Letter.PDF

From: Barbara Scoville [mailto:bscoville@nwi.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 2:34 PM
To: AOC DL - Rules Comments
Subject: WCRA Rules Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is my signed letter.

Sincerely,

BARBARA J. SCOVILLE, CCR

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