



WASHINGTON STATE  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTY CLERKS

Ruth Gordon, President  
Jefferson County Clerk  
P.O. Box 1220  
1820 Jefferson Street Room 210  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
360-385-9128

February 12, 2015

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

RE: Comment on Suggested Amendments to Court Transcriptionist Rule Changes

Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Committee:

I write today on behalf of the County Clerks to ask the Court to adopt the Suggested Amendments to SPRC 3; RAP 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 10.2, 18.9; CR 43, 80; ARLJ 13; RALJ 5.3; CRLJ 75 and Suggested New Rules: CR, CrR, and GR.

However, there is one critical improvement to the "New Rule – Official Certified Superior Court Transcripts" which I urge the Committee to accomplish on behalf of our fellow court members who worked for so long and so diligently to provide an array of rule changes that will streamline and improve the quality of the record prepared on appeal, and to update our methods.

Please remove the two words "or different" in the last sentence of the following passage of the "New Rule – Official Certified Superior Court Transcripts (d):

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.

As originally suggested by the Court Administrators and the BJA this proposed rule sought to establish minimum qualifications for transcriptionists preparing the verbatim reports of

proceedings. That was *the whole point* of this subsection. "Additional or different" qualifications would have the result of opening the door to allowing a local option of lesser qualifications.

The intent and the needed end result of passing this particular rule as originally drafted by the Court Management Council workgroup is to provide a minimum professional standard of training for persons who provide the record on appeal. Please support the hard work of our court colleagues and remove the words "or different" from the published version of the rule governing minimum qualifications for transcriptionists. A professional credential or the option of only one year's supervised mentorship under a credentialed professional is not too high a bar to meet.

The wording originally proposed by the Court Management Council workgroup was reviewed by the full CMC, the Court of Appeals Rules Committee, the Superior Court Judges' Association, and the District and Municipal Court Judges' Association, and later endorsed by the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA). Please do not ignore the expertise of the court community as you consider the new rule governing qualifications for transcriptionists of the record on appeal.

The Washington State Association of County Clerks stands with our partners to respectfully ask the Court to adopt the amendment as it was originally submitted by the Court Management Council.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully,



Ruth Gordon  
President, WSACC  
Jefferson County Clerk

## Tracy, Mary

---

**From:** Carpenter, Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 4:12 PM  
**To:** Tracy, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: WSACC letter in Support of CMC position  
**Attachments:** WSACC Letter in Support of RAP changes.pdf

---

**From:** Ruth Gordon [mailto:RGordon@co.jefferson.wa.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 2:57 PM  
**To:** Carpenter, Ron  
**Subject:** WSACC letter in Support of CMC position

Hi, Ron – Thank you, Ron, for the reminder. I had previously sent this snail mail to Chair Johnson, and do not see it posted. I apologize for not also sending to you. Best wishes, Ruth

Ruth Gordon  
Jefferson County Clerk  
P.O. Box 1220  
1820 Jefferson Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98368  
Phone: 360-385-9128  
FAX: 360-385-5672  
[rgordon@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:rgordon@co.jefferson.wa.us)

---

**From:** Court Management Council [mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Carpenter, Ron  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:37 PM  
**To:** [CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV)  
**Subject:** Re: [CMC] Supreme Court Comment Period

Dear fellow CMC members:

See the attachment for a copy of my letter to Justice Johnson. You will note that via a cc: a copy of the letter is directed to my office so that Mary Tracy, our office Rules Docket Clerk (who is responsible for tracking all rule comments and for making distribution of the same to the members of the Rules Committee), has an official record of my comments. Per the Court's order publishing the proposed rule changes for comments, all comments should also be filed with my office: "Comments are to be submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court....by not later than April 30, 2015." So if anyone chooses to write Justice Johnson directly, as I have done, please also cc: a copy to me so I can have Mary ensure your comments are filed and distributed to all of the Rules Committee members. In that regard, by way of this message, I am asking Mary to separately docket and distribute a copy of Callie's and Sonya's February 12, 2015 letter to Justice Johnson. Take care,

Ron Carpenter

---

**From:** Court Management Council [mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV] **On Behalf Of** Tawes, Caroline  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 2:04 PM

**To:** [CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV)

**Subject:** [CMC] Supreme Court Comment Period

Good morning Court Management Council members,

At our meeting yesterday we discussed the deadline for comments to the Supreme Court Rules Committee. **The correct date is April 30, 2015.**

This afternoon I sent the attached letter to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. You are welcome to use this letter as a template for a letter from your association. I've attached a Word copy; please feel free to cut and paste.

The Web site for comments, including the e-mail address, is here and below in Dirk's message: [http://www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules/?fa=court\\_rules.proposed](http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules/?fa=court_rules.proposed)

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can assist in any way.

*Thank you,  
Caroline*

**From:** Marler, Dirk

**Sent:** Thursday, February 12, 2015 8:34 AM

**To:** Tawes, Caroline

**Subject:** Supreme Court Comment Period

The deadline for comment to the Supreme Court on the rules suggested by the Court Management Council is April 30, 2015. See, [http://www.courts.wa.gov/court\\_rules/?fa=court\\_rules.proposedDetails&proposedId=79](http://www.courts.wa.gov/court_rules/?fa=court_rules.proposedDetails&proposedId=79).

Comments should be submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court by either U.S. mail or Internet e-mail. Comments may be sent to the following addresses: P.O. Box 40929, Olympia, WA 98504-0929, or [supreme@courts.wa.gov](mailto:supreme@courts.wa.gov). Comments submitted by e-mail may not exceed 1500 words.

**Dirk A. Marler, Director**  
**Judicial Services Division**  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
PO Box 41170  
Olympia, WA 98504-1170  
(360) 705-5211

---

This e-mail has been sent to everyone in the [CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV) mailing list. To reply to the sender, click Reply. To reply to the sender and the mailing list, click Reply All.

You can remove yourself from this mailing list at any time by sending a "SIGNOFF CMC" command to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV).

---

This e-mail has been sent to everyone in the [CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:CMC@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV) mailing list. To reply to the sender, click Reply. To reply to the sender and the mailing list, click Reply All.

You can remove yourself from this mailing list at any time by sending a "SIGNOFF CMC" command to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.COURTS.WA.GOV).