

*Justice Charles Johnson*

*Supreme Court Rules Committee*

*c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court*

*P.O. Box 40929*

*Olympia, WA 98504-0929*

*RE: Proposed JuCR 1.6 – Physical Restraints in the Courtroom*

*Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:*

My name is Daniel Loera. I am currently incarcerated at Green Hill School in Chehalis, Washington and I am representing our United Youth Council. I support proposed Juvenile Court Rule 1.6 because in my experience shackling has made a bad impact in my life, in my relationships with my family, and in my future. Shackling has made me feel like an animal, and it makes me feel like I can't express myself. It is a distraction to me because rather than focusing on what I have to say, I'm focused on what other people are thinking of me, and on avoiding body movements that are painful and uncomfortable because of the shackles. In addition, being shackled makes me feel mistreated, ashamed and criminal. It has affected how my family sees me because they are afraid of me and I am unable to feel like a normal person when shackled. Shackling also has a negative impact on one's future. Shackling messes with a person's state of mind because it makes you feel dangerous and degrades your sense of self.

Sincerely,

Daniel Loera