

Douglas R. Hyldahl
President

Teresa Mathis
Executive Director

April 29, 2014

Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed JuCR 1.6

Dear Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court:

We are writing on behalf of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) to express this organization's unqualified support for the procedures outlined in the proposed JuCR 1.6, standardizing the procedure for determining the necessity of "shackles" and other restraints on juveniles appearing in Superior Court. We join the many judges and legal organizations who have expressed their personal and organizational support for elimination of the arbitrary and typically unnecessary restraint policies that often add little more than drama and discomfort to an already sensitive situation.

Juvenile Courts by their nature provide a unique forum for individualized judicial discretion and evaluation and Judges should have the opportunity to make their assessments unfettered by the image and presumptions associated with physical restraints, particularly when those restraints are unnecessary or counter-indicated for the juvenile affected. The proposed changes offer a standards-based mechanism that provides the protections necessary for those who need it while simultaneously protecting the integrity of the system. It deserves our support.

Sincerely,



Doug Hyldahl
President



Robert Perez
WACDL Court Rules Committee Co-Chair