

**Superior Court of the State of Washington  
for the County of King**

**Mary I. Yu**  
Judge  
(206) 296-9275

King County Courthouse  
Seattle, Washington 98104-2381  
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February 11, 2014

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:

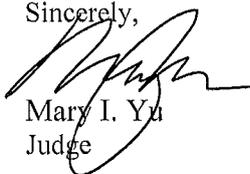
I write to express my personal support of proposed rule JuCR1.6 which governs the use of physical restraints on juveniles in courtrooms. I do not speak for my court but address you in my capacity as a judicial officer who is very concerned with the administration of justice and the rehabilitation of juveniles in our court system. As a matter of course, King County does not routinely shackle juveniles absent the showing of a specific reason to do so. However, we know that there are a number of counties where the practice of shackling all juveniles is presumptive and does occur on a daily basis, including the shackling of status offenders.

The practice of shackling youth who pose no safety threat unnecessarily shames, stigmatizes, and traumatizes young people and is contrary to the rehabilitative goals of our juvenile justice system.

The proposed rule does not eliminate a judge's authority or discretion to order the use of restraints if there is a legitimate factual basis to find it necessary in regard to a particular individual. The rule simply sets forth a uniform approach that recognizes juveniles as a distinct class of people and requires that a judge make an individualized determination of the need to shackle.

I respectfully urge you to adopt proposed rule JuCR 1.6 and end the practice of indiscriminate juvenile shackling.

Sincerely,

  
Mary I. Yu  
Judge