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April 29, 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

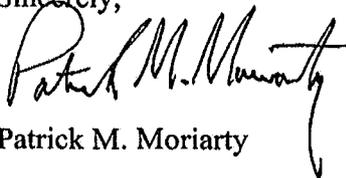
Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:

I am a former public defender and attorney representing juvenile respondents in Snohomish County. During my time as a public defender, all of my in-custody clients appeared in restraints in the courtroom. The practice was and I believe still is consistent across the board, whether the court is dealing with a juvenile accused of a misdemeanor property crime or one accused of a felony assault with a weapon.

I support proposed Juvenile Court Rule 1.6 because it proposes a balanced approach, taking into account the individual needs and risk factors of the juveniles as well as the protection of the community and court personnel.

Shackling all my clients regardless of age, size, offense or dangerousness is a practice I cannot explain or justify to my clients and appears to be contrary to the goal of rehabilitation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. Moriarty

cc: file