

*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:*

Our names are Sione Matau, Josiah Rashid and Christopher Lockett. We are currently incarcerated at Green Hill School in Chehalis, Washington. Through the experience of being shackled in court appearances, we have always felt like criminals before even being proven guilty as charged. It made us feel really uncomfortable because, for one, we had to appear in front of our family like that as well as the Judge. Two, It makes us feel like our lawyers didn't trust us without cuffs on, and three, it was a distraction due to the fact that every time something had to be signed, we had to wait to be uncuffed first. On top of that, they would sometimes be too tight or too loose where it became an irritation physically. We also feel like it is a bad criminalizing act for youth because at a young age we often tend to do whatever it takes to get out of uncomfortable situations so with that being said it makes youth more vulnerable to just sign off on deals that they don't fully understand just because they don't like being in those predicaments. Like being in shackles in front of your family for example!

Sincerely,

Sione, Josiah and Chris