

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 4:15 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Proposed rule changes to CR 28 re third-party contracting in court reporting

Forwarding.

From: mandy varona [mailto:mandyvarona@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2016 3:43 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed rule changes to CR 28 re third-party contracting in court reporting

Dear Clerk of the Court,

I'm writing to share with the Court my enthusiastic support of the language in the proposed amendments (CR 28 and subparts) related to third-party contracting in court reporting in Washington state.

As a newer(ish) court reporter (seven years), I have seen the effects of third-party contracting in a way that affects and threatens my ability to make a living. I am to the point where I don't know if my years of schooling and the years and resources I have invested to this point will be wasted, in large part because of third-party contracting. Each year it becomes more difficult to earn even a modest living, despite having decades of experience as a legal assistant, paralegal, and now an independent contractor court reporter -- a profession I love.

As the Court knows, in law all sides should be treated equally. The current practice of third-party contracting not only disadvantages one side in litigation but financially disadvantages court reporters, as well. Complete transparency is essential to ensure fairness and equal treatment, and secret third-party deals are the opposite of transparency and undermine the profession that requires neutrality, impartiality, and no financial interest whatsoever to one side or in the outcome of a proceeding.

My hope is that the Court will put an end to third-party contracting, which is a problem not only in Washington state but around the country. Many eyes are looking to Washington to resolve the issue, and the Court can remedy it once and for all in Washington, ensure complete impartiality, and provide a model for the rest of the country. For these reasons I strongly urge the Court to adopt the language proposed.

Thank you kindly for your consideration. I look forward to a positive outcome. ~amanda varona,
seattle, wa

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." ~Rev. Dr. MLK