



SPOKANE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Superior Court of the State of Washington
for the County of Spokane

Department No. 6

Salvatore F. Cozza

Judge

1116 W. Broadway
Spokane, Washington 99260-0350
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RECEIVED
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WASHINGTON STATE
SUPREME COURT

April 7, 2016

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

Re: Proposed Changes to GR 28 (Jury Service)

To: Justices of the Washington Supreme Court

I would respectfully like to offer my comment on the proposed change to GR 28 regarding persons called to jury service offered by my brother Judge, John Antosz of Grant County. I think we all agree that the trial court judges need to closely supervise the summoning of jurors and to ensure that persons are not excluded for reasons of physical and sensory disability. My concern is that in larger counties we often have clear-cut situations where persons are summoned to jury duty but have a clear and indisputable medical hardship and they are begging to be excused. For example, if we have a person who is hospitalized and unlikely to recover, or a person suffering from dementia, we should not require that such persons present themselves to the court and ask the Presiding Judge or trial department judge for an excuse.

It is my suggestion that the better approach is to tightly define either by local or state rule the situations where jury coordinators can excuse these persons in case of serious medical hardship.

Sincerely,

Judge Salvatore F. Cozza