



April 27, 2018

The Honorable Justice Charles W. Johnson
Supreme Court Rules Committee Chair
c/o Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed amendment to RAP 3.4 – Title of Case and Designation of Parties

Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Rules Committee:

The Washington Defender Association (WDA) is writing to express our strong support of proposed amendment to rule RAP 3.4 which governs the manner in which a juvenile offender appeal is captioned and the designation of parties to the appeal. The proposed amendment will require that in all juvenile offender appeals the juvenile will be designated only initials. The current rule does not address this issue.

WDA is a non-profit association of over a 1400 public defenders, criminal defense attorneys, investigators, social workers and children's rights attorneys throughout the state of Washington. WDA and its members are committed to supporting and improving indigent defense and the lives of indigent defendants and their families. A primary purpose of WDA is to improve the administration of justice and stimulate efforts to remedy inadequacies in substantive and procedural law that contribute to injustice. For many years, WDA has been actively involved in issues related to juvenile justice and juvenile representation in both juvenile and adult courts. WDA provides training for defenders working in the juvenile justice system and advocates for juvenile justice reform.

WDA supports the proposed amendment because it will assist former juvenile offenders to gain access to educational, employment and housing opportunities. The practice of publishing a youth's name in appellate documents will likely unnecessarily stigmatize some young people and is contrary to the rehabilitative goals of our juvenile justice system.

We respectfully urge you to adopt proposed amendment to rule RAP 3.4.

Sincerely,

Christie Hedman

Christie Hedman
Executive Director

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 8:16 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: WDA Comments on RAP 3.4
Attachments: WDA Comment RAP 3.4.pdf

Forwarding.

From: Christie Hedman [mailto:hedman@defensenet.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 28, 2018 11:56 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: WDA Comments on RAP 3.4

Dear Justice Johnson and Members of the Court Rules Committee,

Attached is a letter from the Washington Defender Association expressing our strong support of proposed amendment to rule RAP 3.4 which governs the manner in which a juvenile offender appeal is captioned and the designation of parties to the appeal.

Please let me know if you have any questions or difficulties opening the document. Thank you for your assistance.

Christie Hedman
Executive Director
she/her/hers
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