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Subject: FW: Email in Support of Proposed Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4
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From: Johnson, Aleksandrea [mailto:johns161@seattleu.edu]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2020 5:08 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Email in Support of Proposed Changes to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4

Dear Honorable Supreme Court Justice:

I am a third year law student at Seattle University School of Law writing in support of the changes the Washington Defender Association has proposed to CrR 3.4 and CrRLJ 3.4. I am concerned about the rights of low-income and marginalized people accused of crimes.

Many people accused of crimes have limited incomes. That sometimes makes it difficult for them to attend multiple court hearings throughout the life of their case. Transportation may be expensive or unavailable. Many accused people may risk losing their jobs if they miss work too many time to attend numerous hearings. They may also be the sole caregivers for children or sick and elderly relatives. In addition, fewer hearings at which an accused person must appear means fewer missed appearances. This may lead to fewer costly bench warrants and fewer delays due to suspensions of proceedings.

The proposed rule changes will make it more likely that defendants will prioritize and attend court hearings where their presence is important and necessary, rather than trying to attend all hearings and possibly missing some. This proposal will both maximize court efficiency and respect accused person's life circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aleksandrea Johnson
She/Her/Hers
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