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Subject: FW: Amended Order 25700-1-1356 - CR 39 - Comment
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From: Haselden, Christine W. [mailto:CHaselden@helsell.com]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:01 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Haselden, Christine W. <CHaselden@helsell.com>
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Honorable Justices of the Court,

I have just discovered that the Court issued the above-mentioned order yesterday. I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern regarding authority granted to Courts, outside of the current emergency COVID guidelines, to impose zoom trials for civil suits without unanimous parties' consent.

This pandemic is unprecedented and has caused much turmoil and isolation for too many. Allowing courts to continue via Zoom has been a necessary act that should only be implemented except under exceptional circumstances. Allowing parties to participate from the more informal setting of their office, home, or other workspace has introduced casualness, lack of respect, distraction and inattentiveness to participants - especially to jurors.

It is my firm belief that the formalities of dressing for an occasion, coming to the courthouse, and personally attending and participating in Court helps all involved to focus on the serious nature and important details of the case at hand. Physical arrival at the Court house, going through security, finding the courtroom, following the appropriate procedures, and rising for the Judge sets the stage and is an important part of equity and justice. Electronic distractions and temptations are kept at bay. In-person observations and interactions that occur in a court room are lost when they are viewed through a screen.

Thank you for reading my comments, and for your diligent work to ensure liberty and justice for All.

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