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Subject: FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:50:10 PM

From: Nelson, Crystal [mailto:nelsoncrysta@seattleu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:34 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4

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To Whom It May Concern-

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to CrR 3.4 that would allow defendants to appear via Zoom for all hearings and stages in criminal cases. I was a defendant in multiple criminal proceedings during my younger years. Going to the courthouse for my hearings provided a level of accountability that I needed to actively participate in my own proceedings. It helped to remind me that the choices I was making and the information I was receiving at the court dates would have vast and long-lasting effects on my life. If I had been permitted to log into my court dates from my living room, I would not have fully appreciated the importance of what was happening in my life. It concerns me that virtual hearings will have the effect of ushering defendants through the criminal justice system without them fully comprehending what it means to face time in jail, or without them fully understanding what a criminal record will mean for their future. A courtroom provides finality and it forces a defendant to recognize the authority the court has to impact their life.

Sincerely,
Crystal Nelson

Crystal Nelson

she/her/hers

JD Candidate 22'

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// AT THE HEART OF LAW

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