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Subject: FW: Opposition to Proposed Rule Change to CrR 3.4
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:13:34 PM
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From: Merrick, Daniel [mailto:damerrick@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 2:08 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rule Change to CrR 3.4

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Good afternoon,

I am a prosecutor in King County and want to share my view in opposition to this proposed court rule. A criminal trial should be treated seriously. This rule would have the opposite effect. Attorneys are required to attend trials. As is court staff. If we are to ask members of our community to trek to the courthouse during a pandemic to serve on a jury, an accused should also be required to do so.

Moreover, victims deserve better. This proposed rule mocks the pain and suffering they've experienced. If the United States Constitution requires the victim of a crime to appear in court to testify against the accused in front of 12 members of a jury, the accused should not be permitted to appear for their trial from their living room via Zoom. Having a defendant appear in person for their trial should be required.

Regards,

Daniel Merrick

General Crimes Unit
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
516 3rd Avenue | Seattle | WA | 98104
Office: (206) 263-9459
Email: damerrick@kingcounty.gov



