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Subject: FW: Opposition to the proposed CrR 3.4
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:49:34 PM

From: Wyatt, Kimberly [mailto:Kimberly.Wyatt@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:15 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Opposition to the proposed CrR 3.4

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in **opposition to the proposed CrR 3.4** changes that permit defendants to appear via Zoom for all hearings and stages in a criminal case. This proposal is fraught with dangerous public safety issues. For example, when a defendant is violating terms of their release and the court needs to remand or when the defendant is convicted of a crime and remand is needed, how does this occur over Zoom? Additionally, if a defendant is permitted to appear over Zoom (electronically) how do we ensure that the defendant is not taking screen shots or photos of jurors or witnesses. This is particularly concerning if the defendant is on trial for a cyberstalking or a stalking related crime. Additionally, concerns with conductivity issues (internet and power) are also important considerations. We want to ensure a fair process for all, but also minimize the concerns with having victims and vulnerable witnesses have to re-testify because of conductivity issues.

Finally, this proposed rule presents significant social justice, access to justice, and equity concerns by permitting those with access to high-speed internet, broadband, and computers to appear via Zoom from wherever they please. However, individuals that do not have the same electronic access will have to appear in person. This will have the greatest impact on our BIPOC communities, immigrants and those disenfranchised.

Please do not permit these proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Kim Wyatt

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