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Subject: FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:40:15 PM

From: Lawson, Nicole [mailto:nlawson@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:22 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 CrR 3.4** changes that permit Defendants to appear via Zoom for all hearings and stages in criminal case. This is fraught with dangerous problems including the court's inability to remand a Defendant if convicted via zoom, the risk of the Defendant taking screen shots or photos of jurors/witnesses, and connectivity issues that could create a situation where a vulnerable witness or child witness has to testify again. Moreover, it conveys the privilege of not appearing in court on Defendants that it does not extend to witnesses, some of whom are vulnerable victims seeking justice.

It also presents huge 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 where ever they please and those who do not have those items to appear in person. This will have the greatest impact on communities of BIPOC and immigrants and those disenfranchised.

Please, do not permit these changes.

Sincerely,

-Nicole Lawson