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Subject: FW: Opposition to changes in CrR 3.4
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From: Merfeld, Noe [mailto:nmerfeld@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:29 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:

- Defendant being violated or convicted and cannot be remanded if on Zoom
- Defendant taking screen shots or photos of jurors or witnesses
- Conduct issues and vulnerable witnesses having to testify again
- Connectivity issues and right to a fair trial

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 wherever, while requiring those without access to appear in person. This will have the greatest impact on BIPOC and immigrant communities and those disenfranchised.

Please do not permit these changes.

Respectfully,



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