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**From:** Behroozian, Kayvon [mailto:kbehroozian@kingcounty.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
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Hello,

The proposed rule, GR 40 to allow virtual voir dire for all cases should not be implemented. Attorneys not only assess prospective jurors not just based on their verbal responses to questions that cannot be as easily evaluated virtually, and in some cases would not be possible.

More importantly, however, is that voir dire is most effective when the jurors are as engaged with the process as possible. The fatigue of transferring more and more of our lives to virtual platforms is no different when performing the most important duty of being a prospective juror virtually. The engagement of prospective jurors, natural responses and conversation with the attorneys and their fellow jurors, will almost definitely decrease when done virtually. I invite the Court to consider the perspective of those who have conducted virtual voir dire during the pandemic.

Encouraging all avenues for increasing engagement with the process furthers the interests of justice by helping to ensure those selected to serve have been properly and effectively considered by the attorneys.

For those reasons the proposed rule GR 40 should not be implemented. However, I would support allowing for virtual voir dire in certain circumstances, such as during a public health emergency like the one we have experienced over the past year+.

Thank you,  
Kayvon

**KAYVON BEHROOZIAN** (he/him)  
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