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Subject: FW: Proposed changes to CrRLJ 3.3 & 3.4
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From: Eric Mapes [mailto:EMapes@co.whatcom.wa.us]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2022 5:00 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed changes to CrRLJ 3.3 & 3.4

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Dear Justices of the Washington Supreme Court,

I oppose the proposed changes to the court rules governing when a defendant's presence is required. Many indigent clients struggle with basics like housing, transportation, and access to communications technology. The proposed changes will make it more likely that these clients end up with arrest warrants, increase crowding in courtrooms and jails, and impose unnecessary burdens on counsel and court staff.

Furthermore, imposing a duty on appointed counsel to inform clients of hearing, then requiring to discuss this issue on the record, violates RPC 1.6, in my view. I strongly encourage you to reject DMCJA's proposed changes.

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