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To: [Linford, Tera](#); [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Comment opposing changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4
Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 8:19:02 AM

From: lpowers@jacdefender.org [mailto:lpowers@jacdefender.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 3:10 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment opposing changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4

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Hello:

I am writing to oppose changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4. In my opinion, 3.4 is working smoothly in the jurisdiction where I practice (Jefferson County). Particularly in Covid-19 times, my clients rely on the ability to appear via zoom or to appear via counsel. The presumption that defendants must be physically present in court will re-introduce problems that existed before February 2021. Also, with respect to the proposal that defense lawyers be responsible for giving notice of future hearings or saying whether they have consulted with their clients, I would be in violation of RPC 1.6 by divulging that information. Further, it would break down my clients' trust in me, which is already fragile as a public defender when many citizens believe that I simply process cases without consideration for my clients' goals and that I am a "public pretender."

I oppose changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4.

Thank you,

Lillian Powers
Jefferson Associated Counsel
624 Polk St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
Phone: 360.385.5613
Fax: 360.385.4012