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Subject: FW: proposed revisions to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4
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From: Rajan, Naresh [mailto:nrajan@kingcounty.gov]
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Subject: proposed revisions to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4

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Good Morning,

In the Seattle Municipal Court and in King County Superior Court in Seattle, the current versions of CrRLJ 3.3, CrRLJ 3.4 and CrR 3.3 and CrR 3.4, respectively, have been working very well to allow defendants to minimize disruptions to their daily lives as a result of involvement in the criminal justice system. The changes recently proposed would upset a pandemic-adapted system that has survived many shut-downs and is making it easier for people to keep current and pursue their court cases.

The proposed changes would unnecessarily and unfairly put the onus on the individual defense attorney to inform the client as well as potentially force them to break confidences with clients. The perception across a broad swath of the public defense clientele is that there is an inherent conflict of interest because the same government paid by the same government that is prosecuting them. Requiring defense attorneys to vouch for their clients creates an extra conflict and would have a chilling effect on attorney-client communications.

I urge the court to leave these court rules as they are. They have worked for the benefit of both the court and the individual defendant through the pandemic.

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