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Subject: FW: proposed new changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and CrRLJ 3.4
Date: Friday, January 28, 2022 3:05:23 PM

From: Posnock, Sophia [mailto:SPosnock@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 3:01 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: proposed new changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and CrRLJ 3.4

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Hello,

I am a public defender commenting as a private citizen. I oppose the proposed amendments to these rules. The current 3.4 rule has saved my clients the cost and time of sitting in crowded courtrooms and taking time off of work to come to largely administrative hearings. For the lawyers, these hearings run smoother and are faster, causing us to spend less time waiting in court and more time working on our cases, which is all the more necessary under the increased caseloads caused by COVID backlogs. The ethical implications of the notice requirement as well as breaking confidentiality with the court are deeply concerning and would likely require many attorneys withdraw mid-representation for conflicts of interest. The issuance of warrants for missing pretrial hearings disproportionately affects the indigent. Our local jails are at a crisis point already—increasing warrants for unnecessary issues would only slow down our overburdened system and further deteriorate the conditions in jail.

Thank you for listening,
Sophia Posnock