

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:09:37 PM

From: Starck Follis [mailto:SFollis@co.whatcom.wa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:09 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed Changes to CrRLJ 3.3 and 3.4

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

To Whom it may Concern:

Please note my opposition to proposed changes to the above rules being advanced by various District Court and Municipal Court Judges, generally overturning State v. Gelinas. Forcing people of limited income and means to go to endless court hearings, particularly during a pandemic, makes no sense. Our clients often do not have cars, homes, phones or other means to facilitate court appearance. Failure to appear that result in bench warrant creates an onerous and coercive climate to get people to plead guilty. In some cases, arrests on warrants result in new charges, further clogging the system. I have witnessed first hand in the aftermath of Gelinas and can say that the change has been positive for our clients and cause not undue problems for the courts,.

Starck Follis
Director
Whatcom County Public Defender