



April 18, 2023

Justices of the Washington Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0929  
VIA E-MAIL: supreme@courts.wa.gov

RE: Proposed Changes to CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5

Dear Justices:

The Washington Defender Association (WDA) supports the proposed changes to CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5, which would allow defense attorneys and their clients 10 days after a verdict or decision to move for arrest of judgment or a new trial and would allow courts to extend that deadline until a judgment is entered. The changes would bring time limits for these motions in courts of limited jurisdiction in line with those in superior courts. See CrR 7.4 and CrR 7.5.

Attorneys may sometimes miss the short 5-day deadlines that currently exist, limiting the legal rights of their clients. Sometimes attorneys are unaware of the 5-day time limit until it has passed. Other times lawyers are unable to contact clients within the 5-day time limit to ensure they want to move forward with a motion. Attorneys who practice in courts of limited jurisdiction, some of whom are new to practice, should have the same amount of time to move for a new trial or arrest of judgment as attorneys who practice in superior courts. The proposed changes would help ensure the rights of people who are legally entitled to new trials or arrests of judgment in courts of limited jurisdiction. We ask that you adopt them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Magda Baker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Magda Baker, WSBA #30655  
Misdemeanor Resource Attorney

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: court rule comment CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:00:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[04.18.23 WDA comment CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5.pdf](#)

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**From:** Magda Baker <Magda@defensenet.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2023 10:32 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** court rule comment CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5

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Please see attached court rule comment in favor of changes to CrRLJ 7.4 and CrRLJ 7.5.

Thank you for your time and attention.

**Magda Baker**  
Misdemeanor Resource Attorney  
She/Her  
[magda@defensenet.org](mailto:magda@defensenet.org)  
Washington Defender Association  
810 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Suite 258  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Tel: 206.623.4321 | Cell: 206.226.9512



This exchange of information does not create an attorney-client relationship, nor does it constitute legal advice. The Washington Defender Association (WDA) expects you will evaluate this information and independently decide how to best represent your client. The name of your client, if disclosed to the resource attorney, is considered confidential. However, for the purposes of recordkeeping, we may provide your name and general information about the type of assistance you received to other WDA staff, the WDA board, or the Washington State Office of Public Defense.