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Subject: FW: Comment re proposed ARLJ 15 – Appearances By Participants
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:57:45 PM

From: Guthrie, Stephanie <Stephanie.Guthrie@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 2:55 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
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I am writing to oppose the new proposed ARLJ 15. The proposed rule should be rejected because it **allows a court to permit any appearance to be remote or through counsel, even when physical appearance is required.** It overrides the provisions of CrRLJ 3.4, which draws a careful distinction between hearings at which the constitution or logic requires the defendant to appear and hearings for which their physical (or remote) appearance is not required. The proposed rule invites errors by the court and counsel in allowing the defendant to not attend hearings as to which their appearance is constitutionally mandated. There will be no record of an adequate waiver, so the rule will result in many reversals on appeal that would otherwise not occur.

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