



April 26, 2024

Clerk of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed GR 41 – WSAJ's Letter in Support

Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court:

The Washington State Association for Justice ("WSAJ") has over 2,400 attorney members who represent thousands of citizens in civil matters. WSAJ respectfully submits this additional comment in support of the adoption of the proposed GR 41.

The Washington Supreme Court's creative efforts over the past few years to preserve parties' access to the civil justice system have been truly outstanding. Washington courts' willingness to embrace technology throughout all aspects of a trial has demonstrated the important roles that remote and hybrid proceedings have within the justice system for providing greater access to justice. Remote jury selection has been a cornerstone of these efforts, and courts throughout the state should have the option of utilizing this procedure in future matters. The continued use of remote jury selection is consistent with the current and proposed CR 1.

WSAJ's members, many of whom were skeptical about the use of remote jury selection, have come to embrace it. Our members have found that the use of virtual jury selection has expanded the number of people who are willing to serve as jurors by reducing the burden of participation in the justice system. This includes not having to travel into downtown Seattle during peak travel hours, travel long distances in our rural counties, worrying about sparse and expensive parking, and at least in Seattle, being concerned for one's safety in the areas around the courthouse. This has resulted in, anecdotally, more diverse juror panels and allowed for the participation of individuals who might not otherwise have appeared in person for jury selection. The use of remote jury selection along with comprehensive juror questionnaires has also streamlined the process of addressing hardships in an efficient manner. While not entirely seamless, the remote jury selection process has proven to be as effective as in person jury selection. This Court should not jettison this invaluable tool which can help increase access to justice by helping streamline the public's participation in the justice system.

WSAJ's members have found that remote jury selection, while not without hiccups, has unquestionably enhanced each court's ability to effectively manage its caseload and ensure diverse juries are empaneled in a timely manner. This increases access to justice to all Washington residents. Remote jury selection promotes a more effective and efficient civil justice system.

Therefore, WSAJ requests the Supreme Court adopt the proposed GR 41 to preserve the option to utilize remote jury selection with appropriate safeguards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen Durkin Peterson".

Colleen Durkin Peterson
WSAJ President

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: WSAJ Comment on GR 41
Date: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 8:11:31 AM
Attachments: [2024-04-29 WSAJ Letter of Support on Proposed GR 41.doc](#)

From: Leah Griffin <Leah@washingtonjustice.org>
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2024 5:27 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: WSAJ Comment on GR 41

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Clerk of the Supreme Court,
Please accept this letter of support for Proposed GR 41 on behalf of the Washington State Association for Justice. The letter has also been mailed to the Court.

Leah Griffin

Government Affairs and Political Action Associate

Washington State Association for Justice

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