



Cowlitz County Clerk's Office
and Ex-Officio Clerk of Superior Court
Staci L. Myklebust, County Clerk

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April 30, 2024

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

Re: RAP 9.6

Dear Clerk of the Supreme Court,

I am submitting this extended comment regarding proposed changes to RAP 9.6 Designation of Clerk's Papers.

The Cowlitz County Superior Court Clerk fully supports the comments submitted by the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) regarding the proposed changes to RAP 9.6.

The solution to this problem is not to burden the Clerks with more work because the appellate attorneys do not want to travel. The solution is actually found in RAP 15.2(e), "If trial counsel is not appointed, trial counsel must assist (appellant) counsel appointed for review in preparing the record. Therefore, it would seem appropriate for trial counsel to provide any information pertaining to exhibits to new counsel.

In closing, the Cowlitz County Clerk's office is not adequately staffed to provide copies of all exhibits to appellate counsel. The presumption that copy fees will cover the cost of reproduction of exhibits is inaccurate. The charge for copies of documents does not begin to address the work involved in copying the various types of exhibits received. This charge has also not kept up with the rising costs of staff as well as supplies.

If the Supreme Court is still considering adopting the proposed changes to RAP 9.6, I join WSACC in requesting a public hearing.

Sincerely,

Staci Myklebust
Cowlitz County Clerk

Megan M. Baker
Chief Deputy Clerk
(360) 577-3019

Jury Management
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(360) 414-5532

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(360) 577-3017