

April 30, 2024

Chief Justice Steven González
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed Changes to CrR 3.2/CrRLJ 3.2

Dear Chief Justice González,

The majority of people held in jail have not been convicted of a crime. Pre-trial detainees are also often indigent and will take a plea to get out of custody. They do this to return to their families, their children, their elderly parents to whom they provide care. They do this to return to their jobs to be able to make their rent and avoid losing all their worldly possessions because they know they do not have the wherewithal to rebuild.

Persons of color are more likely to be indigent and disproportionately affected by criminalization of poverty. This rule change addresses the inequity by allowing the option of cash deposit bail. Many states have already adopted such a system. Washington should join these states and mitigate the harm the criminal legal system inflicts upon the Accused who should be presumed innocent.

This amendment will not solve the problems in the criminal legal system, but it a step toward equity for those involved in it.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kimberly S Sloan

Kimberly S Sloan
Public Defender
Wa Bar No. 47651