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Subject: FW: New Court Rules Comment
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From: Rachel Stine-Sheridan <rstine@snocopda.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 10:48 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
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Good afternoon,

I have dedicated all my years of legal practice to public defense. I am writing in support of the proposed court rule changes before the WA Supreme Court.

CrR 8.3 & CrRLJ 8.3 –

It is not too high a demand to ask those who prosecute the law to refrain from acting arbitrarily and engaging in misconduct. The existing rule enables State counsel to act haphazardly and commit misconduct so long as they avoid prejudicing the rights of the accused AND materially affect the accused's right to a fair trial at the same time. Furthermore, most accused persons never go to trial. More focus needs to be paid to how the prosecutorial machine operates prior to trial. This rule change does just that. The change also enhances judicial input to ensure prosecutions prioritize fairness and justice, and therefore enhancing the overall integrity of the criminal legal system.

CrR 3.2 & CrRLJ 3.2 –

The current bail system exacerbates racial and socio-economic inequities. I can't count the number of clients I have represented who have lost access to mental health treatment, housing, jobs, and more due to not being able to pay bail. This rule change will help mitigate the harm the criminal legal system inflicts on people with low incomes who have not been convicted of a crime and are presumed innocent.

JuCR 11.23 –

Currently, I work as a public defender for juveniles. This rule change memorializes what is largely in practice in Snohomish County and should be in practice throughout the State. Judges should be able to decide based on a case-by-case basis whether a party or witness may be able to appear remotely.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachel Stine-Sheridan (She/Her)
Attorney – Juvenile & Felony Unit

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