

Cooper Offenbecher
President

Lauren Bramwell
Executive Director

April 30, 2025

Sent via email to supreme@courts.wa.gov

Washington State Supreme Court
Court Rules Committee
supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: Proposed changes to CR 12

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) supports the proposed amendment of this rule. Individuals in the custody of the Washington State Department of Corrections or a County Jail have reduced access to resources—e.g. law libraries, courthouse facilitators, legal forms, telephones, the Internet, the Post Office, and attorneys—and are much more likely to be indigent. Due to their limited access to legal resources, individuals in custody often face significant barriers to meaningful participation in litigation—particularly in civil cases where counsel is rarely appointed. Providing additional time to serve an answer in such cases enhances their ability to engage with the legal process and reduces the likelihood of unnecessary proceedings, such as CR 55(c) motions to set aside default judgments.

For all these reasons, WACDL supports the proposed amendment to CR 12. The changes promote clarity, fairness, and judicial efficiency by ensuring that all parties—particularly those facing systemic barriers to participation—are afforded a meaningful opportunity to be heard. By extending time for individuals in custody to respond and aligning procedural rules with practical realities, the amendment helps safeguard access to justice and prevent unnecessary defaults and avoidable litigation.

Thank you for your consideration,



Cooper Offenbecher
WACDL President



Emily Gause
WACDL Court Rules Committee Co-Chair



Christopher Taylor
WACDL Court Rules Committee Co-Chair

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Farino, Amber](#)
Cc: [Ward, David](#)
Subject: FW: WACDL Court Rule Public Comments
Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 3:46:30 PM
Attachments: [WACDL 3.1.pdf](#)
[WACDL 3.2.pdf](#)
[WACDL 4.1.pdf](#)
[WACDL 8.3.pdf](#)
[WACDL RAP 10.2.pdf](#)
[WACDL CR 12.pdf](#)
[WACDL 17.7.pdf](#)
[WACDL 18.17.pdf](#)

From: Lauren Bramwell <Lauren@wacdl.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 3:34 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Cooper Offenbecher <cooper@ahmlawyers.com>; Emily Gause <emily@emilygauselaw.com>; Christopher Taylor <taylor@crtaylorlaw.com>
Subject: WACDL Court Rule Public Comments

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Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached comments submitted on behalf of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) regarding the following proposed rules:

- CrR/CrRLJ 3.1 (Appellate Caseloads)
- CrR/CrRLJ 3.2
- CrR/CrRLJ 4.1
- CrR/CrRLJ 8.3
- CR 12
- RAP 10.2
- RAP 17.7
- RAP 18.17

Thank you,

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