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Subject: FW: proposed court rules/rule changes - 2025
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From: Muller, Trudy (PAO) <trmuller@kingcounty.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 10:53 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: proposed court rules/rule changes - 2025

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Dear Justices and Rule Committee Members,

I am writing to share my concerns about the proposed changes to Criminal Rule (CrR) and Criminal Rule for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction (CrRLJ) 8.3.

While I understand the goal is to give judges more flexibility to dismiss cases “in the interest of justice,” I am worried these changes could have serious unintended consequences.

Right now, courts can only dismiss a criminal case if the defendant’s rights are clearly harmed — which makes sense. Everyone deserves a fair trial, and our legal system has built-in checks to make sure that happens. If the rule is changed, courts could start dismissing cases even when no one’s rights were violated. That feels risky. It could lead to uneven results, where some people get their cases dismissed for vague reasons and others don’t.

I’m also especially concerned about victims of crimes like domestic violence. These cases are already very difficult, and victims are often scared to testify. If courts start dismissing cases too easily, it could send a message that these serious crimes won’t be taken seriously.

Another issue is that the proposed rule is very broad and leaves too much open to interpretation. Without clear guidelines, different courts might apply the rule differently, leading to confusion and unfairness across the system. This could make people lose trust in our courts, which we simply cannot afford.

Finally, I have not seen strong evidence showing that this change is needed. The current rule already allows judges to fix real problems. I respectfully ask that you reconsider moving forward with this proposal unless there is a clear, proven reason to do so.

Thank you for your time and for considering my concerns.

Trudy Muller^(she/her)

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