

Cooper Offenbecher
President

Lauren Bramwell
Executive Director

April 29, 2025

Sent via email to supreme@courts.wa.gov

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

Re: Proposed changes to RAP 17.7, RAP 18.13, RAP 18.3A

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court:

The Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (WACDL) opposes the proposed amendment of this rule. Many individuals adversely affected by rulings issued by commissioners or clerks are in the custody of the Washington State Department of Corrections. Incarceration frequently delays communication between these individuals and their attorneys. For example, individuals in DOC custody generally cannot receive incoming telephone calls, often experience mail delays due to DOC screening procedures, and have limited access to phones for placing outgoing calls. As a result, attorneys are rarely able to discuss the contents and implications of a ruling with their clients on the day it is issued—and in many cases, not for several days thereafter.

Shortening the timeframe for filing a motion to modify from 30 to 15 days undermines the attorney-client relationship. It forces counsel to either file a motion without sufficient consultation, rush the preparation of a motion under a severely truncated timeline, or waive the motion altogether.

For these reasons, WACDL urges the Court to reject the proposed amendment. Reducing the timeframe to file a motion to modify places an undue burden on incarcerated individuals and their counsel, compromising meaningful attorney-client communication and the ability to fully assess and respond to adverse rulings.

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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