



May 23, 2018

Justice Charles Johnson
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia WA 98504

RE: Proposed amendments to CrR 4.1 – Arraignment

Dear Justice Johnson and Supreme Court Rules Committee:

Thank you for requesting input from the Washington Defender Association (WDA) on the proposed amendment to CrR 4.1 – Arraignment.

We appreciate the problem that has been identified and we would like to see resolved; however, remedying the problem is more complex than the fix suggested in the proposal. It appears to interact with a number of other court rules that would have to be addressed simultaneously. It also is unclear how often this practice occurs across the state and whether it makes sense for that practice to continue. We would suggest further study before adopting the proposed amendment.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harry Gasnick', enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Harry Gasnick
Chair, WDA Court Rules Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christie Hedman'.

Christie Hedman
Executive Director