

Faulk, Camilla

From: GlenHoff [glenh@co.skagit.wa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, April 30, 2008 3:10 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed GR 34
Attachments: GR34 Ltr.doc

Ms. Faulk

I have attached a letter expressing the Skagit County Bar Association's unanimous endorsement of the proposed GR 34.

Sincerely,

Glen C. Hoff, Chief Deputy
Skagit County Public Defender
(360)336-9405 ext. 5759
President, Skagit County Bar Association

Skagit County Bar Association

Letterhead to be inserted here

April 29, 2008

Hon. Charles Johnson, Chair
Washington Supreme Court Rules Committee
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Proposed Court Rule GR 34 – In Forma Pauperis Rule

Dear Justice Johnson:

I am writing on behalf of the Skagit County Bar Association concerning Proposed Rule GR 34. The Skagit County Bar Association discussed the Proposed Rule at its March and April Bar Association meetings. A Motion to endorse the adoption of the Proposed Rule was voted on at the April meeting and was unanimously approved.

The Skagit County Bar Association believes that this Proposed Rule would constitute an important step in ensuring that indigent persons have access to the Court. The Skagit County Bar Association, in collaboration with the Skagit County Community Action Agency operates a Volunteer Lawyer Program. The Proposed Rule will enable pro bono attorneys to devote volunteer time to the legal issues involved in the case rather than spending time on preparing financial documents and attending the ex parte calendar to obtain the In Forma Pauperis Order. The adoption of the Proposed GR 34 will as a result, we believe, make it easier to recruit pro bono attorneys. Attorneys appreciate knowing that their volunteer time and efforts are expended in productive activities which directly benefit the client. Volunteer hours are a precious commodity which should be spent in addressing the legal issues in the case rather than filing fee waivers.

The Proposed Rule will also bring uniformity across the state to the In Forma Pauperis procedure. This will facilitate pro bono attorneys' use of the In Forma Pauperis procedure in Counties outside their normal geographic practice area. It will also assist in ensuring uniformity of treatment between Counties.

We respectfully request that the Court adopt Proposed Rule GR 34.

Sincerely,

/s/

GLEN HOFF
President, SCBA