

EASTSIDE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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April 16, 2010

Ronald Carpenter, Clerk
Washington Supreme Court
415 12th Avenue, SW
P.O. box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Attn: Camilla Faulk

Re: Proposed GR 34
Waiver of Court and Clerks Fees and Charges in Civil
Matters on the Basis of Indigency

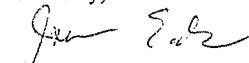
Dear Mr. Carpenter,

I am writing to you on behalf of Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP). As a volunteer civil legal aid program ELAP has worked with low-income residents of King County for the past 20 years providing civil legal aid in all civil matters including a special legal aid program for survivors of domestic violence. As a result of this vast experience we strongly support proposed Rule GR 34 to waive court and clerks' fees based on indigency. We know that for indigent residents in the state of Washington, court and clerk fees imposed are indeed a hardship that can result in clients not filing IFP applications and thus being denied access to judicial relief in critical civil legal cases.

Eastside Legal Assistance Program strongly encourages the adoption of this rule because it will remove barriers that limit access to the justice system. Adoption of this rule will protect the rights of indigent residents of the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on proposed Rule GR 34. Again, we strongly recommend this rule be adopted.

Sincerely,



Joan Eads
Executive Director

cc: J. Jennison, Board of Directors, ELAP

Member Agency, Alliance for Equal Justice
"It's not justice if it's not equal"