



GAVLS

Grant-Adams Volunteer Legal Services

June 22, 2010

Justice Charles W. Johnson
Jude Cryderman, Administrative Assistant
P. O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Additional comments regarding Proposed General Rule 34

Dear Justice Johnson,

The board members of Grant Adams Volunteer Legal Services (GAVLS) would like reiterate our support regarding the proposed General Rule 34.

GAVLS is extremely supportive of a more uniform approach to the standard for granting indigent waiver of filing fees or costs from judicial officers. Indigent parties experience many barriers in access to our legal system. At this time, in Grant County, there is not a uniform approach to waiver of fees and/or costs resulting in a granting of a waiver to one applicant and a denial to another, both of which have very similar financial situations.

As a result, indigent parties receive seemingly arbitrary and inequitable results. A uniform approach would decrease the inconsistent results indigent parties experience in applying for fee waivers, resulting in a more equitable result to all applicants. Allowing a judicial officer to specifically waive filing fees and other fees or costs, would specifically address the extreme financial barriers encountered by indigent parties, whether filing an action here in Grant County or over in King County.

Finally, GAVLS is supportive of proposed General Rule 34, which will help to remove the some of the financial barriers which indigent persons face when attempting to seek relief in court.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Mahaney Otey, President
GRANT ADAMS VOLUNTEER LEGAL
SERVICES

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