

# LAWFund

Legal Aid for Washington

THE CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

April 22, 2010

Ronald Carpenter, Clerk  
Washington Supreme Court  
PO Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: GR 34

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

The Legal Aid for Washington Fund (LAW Fund) is dedicated to equal justice for low-income persons. Our mission is to raise charitable support to help fund 26 civil legal aid programs in Washington state that are providing access to the civil justice system for those with nowhere else to turn. This is why we support proposed GR 34, which would create uniform *in forma pauperis* standards across the state.

The proposed rule will benefit our 26 grantee organizations and the low-income people they serve. For volunteer lawyer programs and other legal aid providers, GR 34 will make it easier to recruit volunteers whose time is better utilized providing legal advice and representation than spending substantial time obtaining an IFP order.

For low-income people, navigating the myriad IFP procedures in place around Washington state is extremely challenging, and payment of the fees is not a viable alternative. Filing fees and surcharges create a considerable barrier to the justice system for a significant number of low-income people. We encourage the Court to adopt proposed GR 34.

Sincerely,

  
J. Richard Manning  
President

  
Karen Falkingham  
Director

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