



April 28, 2010

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

For 25 years, an innovative partnership working for justice in Washington state with legal, financial, and real estate professionals.

Re: GR 34

1325 Fourth Avenue
Suite 1335
Seattle, WA
98101-2509

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Ph: (206) 624-2536
Fax: (206) 382-3396
caitlindc@legalfoundation.org
www.legalfoundation.org

The Legal Foundation of Washington is dedicated to equal justice for low-income persons. Our mission is to fund programs and support policies and initiatives which enable the poor and the most vulnerable to overcome barriers in the civil justice system. 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 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.

- Rima J. Alaily
President
- Arthur C. Wang
Vice-President
- Pamela J. DeRusha
Secretary
- Barbara A. Fox
Treasurer
- Martin S. Garfinkel
- Paul B. Mack
- Gary Melonson
- Richard E. Mitchell
- Hon. Theodore Spearman

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,

Rima J. Alaily
President

Charles A. Goldmark
Trustee 1984-1986

Caitlin Davis Carlson
Executive Director

