

Faulk, Camilla

To: Sullins, Nan
Subject: RE: Adoption of GR 34

From: Michael Evans [mailto:mhelaw@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Cryderman, Jude
Cc: Keown, Julie
Subject: Adoption of GR 34

Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid has previously expressed support for the adoption of GR34 and we continue to support its adoption. We laud the current proposal that gives judicial authority for the waiver of both the DV and facilitator surcharges. We encourage the Rules Committee to expand the judicial authority to include the new judicial surcharge as set forth in RCW 36.18.020(5). The current draft references a non-existent RCW 36.18.018(5). We presume this is a typographical error and is perhaps intended to reference RCW 36.18.020(5). This change is particularly meaningful to Cowlitz County residents many of who are of limited means, as our current indigent fee petitions do not allow for either the DV or facilitator surcharges to be waived.

We continue to support any and all efforts that allow Equal Access for All. The lack of money to pay a filing fee should not prevent a person from receiving the benefits of our judicial-legal system.

Proposed rule GR 34 contains even more clearly defined standards allowing a judicial officer to make an informed decision regarding waiver of fees. In this way, public dollars are safeguarded while also maintaining an open courthouse to all. We support the adoption of GR 34.

Michael H. Evans
Board Member and Treasurer
Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid