

Northwest IMMIGRANT RIGHTS Project

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April 30, 2010

Ronald Carpenter, Clerk
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Sent via email

Attn: Camilla Faulk

Re: Support for Proposed GR 34

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

I write on behalf of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project to express our organization's strong support for the adoption of proposed General Rule 34 now under consideration by the Court.

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) is a nonprofit legal services organization and the only entity providing comprehensive immigration legal services to low-income individuals and families in Washington State. Although our organization's legal practice is not before the state courts, many of our clients face disputes that require them to access the state court system. For this reason, we are deeply aware of the barriers that currently face low-income individuals seeking to have their rights vindicated in state court. NWIRP believes that the adoption of the proposed GR 34 will be a substantial step towards addressing those barriers.

While we urge the adoption of proposed GR 34, we also want to express our concern that the proposed rule may not be sufficiently clear on exactly which fees and costs are being waived by its provisions. We respectfully suggest that this aspect of the rule be made clearer either directly in its language or by the process that is used to implement it to ensure all such fees and costs be deemed waived.

On behalf of NWIRP, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important provision.

Respectfully,

Jorge L. Barón
Executive Director

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NWIRP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization