

Faulk, Camilla

From: PAUL A BASTINE [paulbastine@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 4:10 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed GR 34

I write this comment in support of proposed GR 34. Courts and, in particular, judicial officers are under constant pressure to balance their budgets in answer to the reduced resources and increased costs to the judicial system. That results in pressure that often translates into less than appropriate review of the needs of those who have no funds to access the system. This proposed rule provides guidance in an objective manner to those judicial officers and clerks who must make the difficult judgment of balancing the economic requirements of keeping their offices running properly against the needs of access by those who cannot afford to pay. Unfortunately, as the process now works, it is even made more inequitable by the fact that from judicial district and court to another, and from judicial officer to another, the same criteria are not uniformly applied. Thus in one court, access is much more readily available than in another. Being economically disadvantaged is bad enough without being treated unfairly because of where you live or which judicial officer you happen to get that day at the courthouse. "It's not justice, if it's not equal."

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