

Faulk, Camilla

From: Rachel Levy [rachellevy@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Comment on proposed Rule GR 34

To: Clerk of the Supreme Court

As a former legal services attorney and current volunteer advocate, I am writing to urge the Washington State Supreme Court to adopt GR 34 proposed and published for comment in April 2010. The rule would provide a standard system for considering and approving IFP applications in non-criminal actions.

Having practiced in several different jurisdictions, I can confirm anecdotal reports that there is a significant lack of uniformity of practice. That lack of uniformity prevents otherwise qualified litigants from accessing court services and wastes both time and money for the courts and for legal services providers.

Instituting a standard system will accomplish two primary goals:

- (1) ensure constitutionally protected access to the courts for low income persons unable to pay the filing fee and other mandatory incidental fees; and
- (2) decrease the amount of attorney, court and administrative time involved in processing IFP applications, thus saving money for the system as a whole.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule.

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Rachel Levy, Attorney at Law
WSBA #11100
rachellevy@comcast.net