

**From:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 01, 2014 8:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on General Rule 15

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**From:** Neal Oman [mailto:nealoman@msn.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2014 10:22 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Subject:** Comment on General Rule 15

Your Honors:

I do not support changes to how General Rule 15, concerning the ability of WA state courts to seal cases settled prior to an official court action, that would make it easier for judges to seal cases. Only in cases when the most serious harm to a private party or a minor would occur, and is judged to outweigh the public's need to know, should a judge consider sealing a case. Openness and transparency are necessary to accountability, particular when it involves governmental actions.

**In particular, cases involving government agency defendants should NEVER be sealed. Government employees give up any expectation of privacy relative to their official actions when they choose to take a government job. No one is required to take a government job and there should be heightened concern for their duties to the taxpayers and citizenry who employ them when they do. The only effective anti-corruption mechanism over the long term is transparency and the accountability it fosters.**

Thank You,  
Neal Oman  
WA Citizen and Resident of Issaquah