



WASHINGTON
COURTS

District and Municipal Court Judges' Association

President

JUDGE DAVID A. STEINER
King County District Court
1309 114th Ave SE Ste 100
Bellevue, WA 98004
(206) 477-2102

President-Elect

JUDGE G. SCOTT MARINELLA
Columbia County District Court
535 Cameron St
Dayton, WA 99328-1279
(509) 382-4812

Vice-President

JUDGE SCOTT K. AHLF
Olympia Municipal Court
900 Plum St SE
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967
(360) 753-8312

Secretary/Treasurer

JUDGE JOSEPH M. BURROWES
Benton County District Court
7122 W Okanogan Pl, Bldg A
Kennewick, WA 99336-2359
(509) 735-8476

Past President

JUDGE DAVID A. SVAREN
Skagit County District Court
600 S 3rd Street
PO Box 340
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-0340
(360) 336-9319

Board of Governors

JUDGE LINDA COBURN
Edmonds Municipal Court
(425) 771-0210

JUDGE KAREN DONOHUE
Seattle Municipal Court
(206) 684-7903

JUDGE DOUGLAS J. FAIR
Snohomish County District Court
(425) 744-6804

JUDGE MICHELLE K. GEHLSSEN
Bothell Municipal Court
(425) 487-5587

COMMISSIONER RICK LEO
Snohomish County District Court
(360) 435-7700

JUDGE SAMUEL G. MEYER
Thurston County District Court
(360) 786-5562

JUDGE REBECCA C. ROBERTSON
Federal Way Municipal Court
(253) 835-3000

JUDGE DOUGLAS B. ROBINSON
Whitman County Dist. Court
(509) 397-5297

JUDGE CHARLES D. SHORT
Okanogan County District Court
(509) 422-7170

JUDGE TRACY A. STAAB
Spokane Municipal Court
(509) 625-4400

March 24, 2016

Honorable Charles W. Johnson, Chair
Supreme Court Rules Committee
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Justice Johnson:

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GR 14.1, CITATION TO
UNPUBLISHED OPINIONS

Thank you for inviting comment on the Washington Supreme Court and Washington Court of Appeals (COA) proposed amendments to General Rule (GR) 14.1, which would allow a party to cite to an unpublished opinion of the Court of Appeals. The District and Municipal Court Judges' Association (DMCJA) supports the amendment, as modified by the letter from Judge Korsmo, Chair of the COA Rules Committee, dated February 10, 2016.

The amendments would allow parties to cite to relevant unpublished COA opinions. A judge may, therefore, use these unpublished opinions as persuasive authority if the judge deems it appropriate. The amendment would allow citations to unpublished opinions filed on or after March 1, 2013, because this is the oldest date that the COA website retains unpublished opinions. Prior to this date, unpublished opinions were removed from the COA website after ninety days. The March 1, 2013, date would allow attorneys and the general public access to the unpublished opinions because they are available on the COA website.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment favoring the proposed amendments to GR 14.1, *Citation to Unpublished Opinions*. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

Judge David A. Steiner
DMCJA President

cc: Judge Frank Dacca, DMCJA Rules Committee Chair
Ms. Shannon Hinchcliffe, AOC
Ms. J Benway, AOC

STATE OF WASHINGTON

1206 Quince Street SE • P.O. Box 41170 • Olympia, WA 98504-1170
360-753-3365 • 360-586-8869 Fax • www.courts.wa.gov