ENDOWMENT for
EQUAL
JUSTICE

January 26, 2017

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504

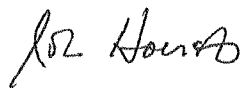RECEIVED FEB -3 2017 Washington State Supreme Court

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of the Endowment for Equal Justice strongly supports the Legal Foundation of Washington's proposed change to Court Rule 23, which would increase the percentage of residual funds disbursed for civil legal aid in our state from 25% to 50%.

There is a solid record of state and federal judges approving cy pres distributions to the Legal Foundation of Washington, and the civil legal aid programs supported by the Foundation are carefully evaluated and monitored by a statewide board of peers in the bar and the judiciary - who are appointed by Washington's Supreme Court, State Bar Association and Governor.

Cy pres distributions provide our state's low income families and individuals with lifesaving legal assistance allowing them to return to safe, productive lives. Legal aid also preempts a costly spiral of social problems by reducing homelessness, unemployment, deficient healthcare, domestic violence, and loss of livelihood.

The Endowment for Equal Justice envisions a day when every individual and family living in poverty and facing a civil legal crisis has access to the help they need. Creative solutions like directing class action residual funds to legal aid will help make this vision a reality. We encourage you to adopt the proposed change.

Sincerely,

[signature]

John Hoerster
President
Endowment for Equal Justice

The Endowment for Equal Justice is the savings and investment account for civil legal aid. While the principal remains intact, revenue from its proceeds will provide an everlasting source of funds for legal aid that changes people's lives.