

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: General Rule 38
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 8:08:24 AM

From: Christie Stewart Stein [mailto:jsteinwa@earthlink.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 1, 2020 2:15 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: General Rule 38

To Whom It May concern:

My name is Christie Stewart Stein. I have been assigned to write on behalf of Indivisible Skagit, an organization of 992 members in Skagit County. We support the adoption of General Rule 38 which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters to us because our community has large numbers of immigrants whom we wish to support. The Rule is needed because:

- **It ensures access to justice.** ICE/CBP's 200+ warrantless civil arrests are hindering access to justice for noncitizens and their families. The presence of immigration officers and increased immigration arrests around courthouses have created deep insecurity and fear among immigrant communities, resulting in a chilling effect that has stopped many from coming to court to face charges, appear as witnesses, or even to pay fees and fines. No one should have to choose between going to court and being deported.
- **It supports the effective administration of justice:** Courts and lawyers cannot deliver the promise of equal access to justice and due process under law if a segment of the community is afraid to access the courts. As a [letter from 75 judges](#) put it, "ICE's courthouse activities have led to physical altercations involving court employees, court staff burdened by ICE requests to facilitate arrests, and disputes between court administration and legal service providers. The environments created by these incidents...only makes it more difficult for judges and court staff to do their jobs."
- **It promotes due process and equal protection:** The First and Fifth Amendments protect access to the courts. The right to access courts is a fundamental right, and one that protects and ensures other core constitutional rights like due process and equal protection of the law. But courts can't operate fairly or effectively when people don't feel safe coming forward. The impact of immigration enforcement at courthouses greatly undermines public safety and the fundamental right to equal protection under the law that is shared by noncitizens and citizens alike.

Thank you for including these comments in your deliberations.

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