

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on Court Rule - GENERAL RULE 38  
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**From:** Eve Rumpf-Sternberg [mailto:evesternberg@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2020 9:07 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Court Rule - GENERAL RULE 38

My name is Eve Rumpf-Sternberg. I support the adoption of General Rule 38, which prohibits civil arrests without judicial warrants within or in the immediate vicinity of courthouses in Washington State. This rule is urgently needed in order to preserve access to the justice system for immigrants in our state.

Immigrants have been accosted, and detained, in and around courthouses in at least 16 Washington State Counties. ("Justice Compromised: Immigration Arrests at Washington State Courthouses," University of Washington Center for Human Rights, <https://jsis.washington.edu/humanrights/2019/10/16/ice-cbp-courthouse-arrests/> ). As explained in that report, the extent of courthouse-area apprehensions cannot be fully measured, because the federal agencies conducting the actions, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), refuse to release data on their use of court appearances to detain immigrants. Nevertheless, the study was able to document that individuals with no prior criminal records, or very minor records, have been arrested and detained while attending to minor traffic matters. Even if an individual was on trial for a more serious matter, the presumption of innocence in our judicial system is not a right limited to U.S. citizens.

Washington State Courts should adopt General Rule 38 in order to preserve access to the justice system for all. The rule will support the fair administration of justice, not only for immigrants but for all of us who count on witnesses to be able to appear in court without fear of forcible arrest and detention on completely unrelated, warrantless charges. The practice of detaining immigrants in and around courthouses will inevitably cause people who are at risk for deportation to further jeopardize their legal status in this country by forcing them to miss required court appearances. That is a violation of their civil and human rights. Again, such rights are guaranteed to all in the first and fifth amendments to the constitution.

Sincerely,

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