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To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Comment submission: GENERAL RULE 38
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:27:00 AM

From: Michelle Dixon-Wall [mailto:michelle@wcsap.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 9:21 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment submission: GENERAL RULE 38

WCSAP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to unite agencies engaged in the elimination of sexual violence, through education, advocacy, victim services, and social change. We are a coalition representing over one hundred sexual assault service providers, culturally specific and tribal programs, and student, individual and agency supporting members.

On behalf of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP), we support the passage of General Rule 38 which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state.

Immigrant survivors need access to justice and to reach out for support when they experience violence and discrimination. Community trust in our courts is critical. If courts are viewed as staging ground for immigration arrests, people will avoid going to court out of fear. People are missing court due to ICE/CBP's misguided practices, and they are losing trust in the judicial system.

Specifically, our membership (Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence community service providers) have reported ICE and CBP presence at local courthouses throughout the state have a chilling effect on immigrant survivors of sexual and domestic violence. These survivors need protection orders and other court resources. The fear in the community extends past undocumented immigrants, impacting Black and Brown communities who have documented status and even citizenship. No one should be afraid to go to court because of their immigration status, race, or country of origin.

Because of this, we support the Washington State Supreme Court to issue a court rule and amend the Rules of Professional Conduct, provide legal basis to sanction against state actors who participate in ICE/CBP courthouse enforcement actions, and strengthen federal court legal actions to challenge ICE/CBP courthouse enforcement. We applaud the recent lawsuit by our state Attorney General to address this issue. No one should be deported or arrested for seeking safety from violence.

Let's continue Washington's momentum to create a safer state for immigrants and refugees and encourage our communities to continue to build onto existing protections and to center immigrant communities in creating solutions for access and safety.

In Community,

Michelle Dixon-Wall

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This email sent from an office located on the land of Coast Salish people.