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Subject: FW: comment on general rules 38
Date: Friday, January 31, 2020 1:07:41 PM

From: Nikki Lockwood [mailto:nikki.lockwood@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 1:03 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: comment on general rules 38

My name is Nikki Lockwood, I am a Washington state resident, I work on immigration issues in Spokane and I am also a newly elected school board member in the Spokane Public School District 81. I support the adoption of General Rule 38 which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters to me because:

- **It ensures access to justice.** ICE/CBP's 200+ warrantless civil arrests are hindering access to justice for non-citizens 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. This fear and stress impacts student learning.
- **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.

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