

Washington Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Court Rule – General Rule 38

Submitted Via: supreme@courts.wa.gov

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

On behalf of United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 21, we write to state our support for the adoption of General Rule 38 which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This rule matters to UFCW21 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.

For the reasons outline above, we request your support for adoption of this rule.

Sincerely,

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment re: GR 38 and RPC 4.4
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:06:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Public Comment RPC 4.4 UFCW 21.docx](#)
[Public Comment GR 38 UFCW 21.docx](#)

From: Samantha Grad [mailto:sgrad@ufcw21.org]
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:02 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Cariño Barragan <CBarragan@UFCW21.org>
Subject: Public Comment re: GR 38 and RPC 4.4

Hello,

Please see attached for public comment on behalf of UFCW 21 re: both GR 38 and RPC 4.4.

Please let myself or Cariño Barragan, cc'ed here, know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Thanks.

Samantha Grad
Political and Legislative Action Director
Office: (206) 436-6558
Cell: (206) 595-4668
5030 First Avenue S., Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98134
sgrad@ufcw21.org
www.ufcw21.org



This electronic message transmission contains information which may be confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this message is prohibited. Thank you.