

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of General Rule 38  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:12:25 AM

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**From:** Susan Marks [mailto:susanmarks@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2020 12:11 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support of General Rule 38

Hello,

My name is Susan Marks, and I am writing to support General Rule 38 to protect the rights of immigrants in our state.

This matters deeply to me. I have worked with survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault for more than a decade, and I know how important it is for survivors to be able to have as much access and as few barriers as possible to our criminal legal system. I also know that both national and local data (collected in Whatcom County) have showed that immigrants are decreasing their reporting of these crimes because of their fears related to federal immigration policy and immigration enforcement at courthouses. The presence of ICE and CBP officers at courthouses and incidents of warrantless arrests add to, deepen, and confirm these fears.

Everyone deserves the right to seek safety for themselves and accountability for those who have harmed them, and this is especially important to people who are abused by their intimate partners or who have been sexually assaulted. Survivors need to be able to report to police, testify in court, apply for civil protection orders, file for divorce, and develop parenting plans - without fear of being detained or deported. Similarly, witnesses to domestic violence and sexual assault need to be able to present in court and testify without fears due to their immigration status.

Our communities are safer when everyone, regardless of their immigration status, are able to go to court, and this is especially true regarding domestic and sexual violence.

Thank you,

Susan Marks