



Kittitas County
Office of the County Clerk
Joyce Julsrud, Clerk

January 30, 2008

Supreme Court Rules Committee
Temple of Justice
P. O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RECEIVED
STATE OF WASHINGTON
SUPREME COURT
08 FEB - 1 AM 7:57
RONALD R. CARPENTER
CLERK

Re: Proposed General rule 34
Waiver of Court and Clerk's Fees and Charges in Civil Matters based on Indigency

Honorable Members:

By virtue of this letter, I am asking you not to pass Proposed Rule 34.

Being from a small county, I must admit that most of my objections are economic in nature. All of the salaries and supplies for the Superior Court Clerk's office are paid through our county's general fund. While the clerk collects filing fees (which are split with the state), we also collect fees for the services we provide to the public which are remitted in total to the general fund to help fund our office. If you feel that you must pass this rule, **PLEASE** remove any clerk's service fees from it. For us to function with the staff necessary to do our job, we simply cannot do it with any less. We are understaffed now.

Because the clerk's office is a member of the executive branch of county government, I have a problem with my employees being allowed to make a discretionary judgment that I believe would be better left to the judicial branch.

I do not believe that raising the poverty level in civil matters over what is the standard in criminal matters will benefit the poor. Lesser fees mean less staff which means less service to the public.

This rule will have huge fiscal consequences for the county and the office of the clerk. While it may benefit attorneys who represent the poor to avoid specific judicial process, it really does nothing significant for low income people. Please vote **NO on Proposed GR 34**.

Yours truly,

Joyce L. Julsrud
County Clerk