

Foster, Denise

From: Michael Arens [prosperityservices4all@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 3:04 PM
To: Foster, Denise
Subject: Comments for Rule 4.4
Attachments: Rule 4.4 signed.pdf

Please see attached comments.

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We here at Community to Community Development and Prosperity Services are dedicated to serving all parts of the communities in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

We have several cases of attorneys who contract with clients to provide services and have decided to withdraw their representation after the monies have been received by the attorney. Lack of legal status and discrimination, challenges due to non English proficiency, and lack of access to interpreters have all been seen as issues.

I myself have been involved in a court hearing, over a traffic infraction of a suspended license in another state, where a local judge asked the legal status of a person who was not present when I presented a document clarifying the innocence of the person for the record. I notified the judge that I was not aware of the status of the person. To which he cleared his throat. It was assumed he had been deported. The hearing was requested by me to present the document nothing more. The person and I presented this document again at a follow-up hearing and the case was dismissed against the person.

It is this attitude that prevents our communities from feeling safe and protected. When those attitudes are presented by those who have been asked to defend their client and are considered officers of the court the status of our legal system is greatly in jeopardy. An injustice to one is an injustice to all.

People who are undocumented should never be given the impression that their value as a person and their right for justice as a person, is solely based on their legal status.



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