



## Pierce County Minority Bar Association

PO Box 1482, Tacoma, WA 98401

April 27, 2017

The Honorable Susan L. Carlson  
Clerk of the Washington State Supreme Court  
Washington State Supreme Court Temple of Justice  
P.O. Box 40939  
Olympia, WA 98504

Sent via electronic mail to [supreme@courts.wa.gov](mailto:supreme@courts.wa.gov)

### Re: Proposed New General Rule 36 – Jury Selection

Dear Justices of the Washington Supreme Court:

I am writing on behalf of the Pierce County Minority Bar Association (“PCMBA”) in support of Proposed General Rule 36.

After reviewing the proposed rule, our membership nearly unanimously supported the proposed changes. *Batson* is broken and an objective observer standard is a step in the right direction to eliminating discrimination in the jury selection process. *Batson* recognized that a discriminatory peremptory challenge violates a party’s right to a jury of his or her peers and also the right of the excluded juror. “The harm from discriminatory jury selection extends beyond that inflicted on the defendant and the excluded juror to touch the entire community.” *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79, 87 (1986).

The PCMBA’s purpose, at its core, is about representation and inclusion of minorities in the legal system. The PCMBA has members from many different, and is inclusive of all, minority groups. We seek to represent those groups’ interests in the community. Our largest annual event is a Youth and Law Forum in which we host approximately 100 middle school aged kids with the goal of exposing them to and demystifying the legal system. Learning about the legal system only does so much if, later in life, those same kids are denied access to it. Fixing *Batson* is a crucial step in maintaining and restoring the community’s faith in the legal system as well as increasing access for all.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alexandro Kirigin  
PCMBA Secretary-Treasurer

**Tracy, Mary**

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**From:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2017 12:28 PM  
**To:** Tracy, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: PCMBA Comment on Proposed Rule GR 36  
**Attachments:** GR 36 PCMBA Comment.doc

Forwarding.

**From:** Pierce County Minority Bar Assoc. [mailto:PCMinorityBarAssociation@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 27, 2017 12:13 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** PCMBA Comment on Proposed Rule GR 36

Hello,

Attached is the comment from the Pierce County Minority Bar Association in support of the ACLU-WA's proposed new GR 36.

Thank you,  
Alexandro Kirigin  
PCMBA Secretary-Treasurer