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July 27, 2017

Susan Carlson
Clerk of the Court
Washington Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929
supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: Comments on Proposed Change to RAP 10.2

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Columbia Legal Services opposes the proposed amendment to RAP 10.2 that would alter the timeline from 45 days to 30 days for filing *amicus* briefs.

As a civil legal aid program serving people experiencing the negative impacts of poverty and racism, Columbia Legal Services is frequently called upon to take an active role as *amicus curiae* in the Washington State Supreme Court and Washington Court of Appeals. Reducing the time for filing *amicus* briefs will negatively affect the ability of Columbia Legal Services to continue to serve in this role in three important ways.

First, *amicus* participation depends largely on outreach from the parties, which often occurs late in the process. Second, Columbia Legal Services usually drafts *amicus* briefs in collaboration with other national and local civil legal aid programs and nonprofit organizations. This intense level of coordination in legal research and drafting often requires several days, especially when occurring across time zones. Even under the existing rule, is not unusual for interested programs and organizations to express interest and support, but decide not to join as *amici* for reasons of timing. Third, Columbia Legal Services thoroughly analyzes legal issues for potential unintended consequences within our respective client communities. Gathering community feedback and identifying potentially impacted individuals also requires additional time.



THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

Basic Human Needs Project • Children and Youth Project • Economic Justice Project • Institutions Project • Working Families Project

Kennewick
7103 W Clearwater Ave, Ste C
Kennewick, WA 99336
(888) 201-9735

Olympia
711 Capitol Way S, Suite 304
Olympia, WA 98501
(800) 260-6260

Seattle
101 Yesler Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98104
(800) 542-0794

Wenatchee
300 Okanogan Ave, Suite 2A
Wenatchee, WA 98801
(800) 572-9615

Yakima
600 Larson Building
6 South Second Street
Yakima, WA 98901

For these reasons, we would urge that the timeline for filing of *amicus* briefs remain at the current 45 days. We appreciate your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line, positioned above the printed name.

Hillary Madsen
Staff Attorney
Columbia Legal Services

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 4:20 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Proposed Change to RAP 10.2
Attachments: Comments on Proposed Change to RAP 10.2.pdf

Forwarding.

From: Ian Marlow [mailto:ian.Marlow@Columbialegal.org]
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2017 4:16 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Merf Ehman <Merf.Ehman@ColumbiaLegal.org>; Antonio Ginatta <Antonio.Ginatta@columbialegal.org>; Hillary Madsen <Hillary.Madsen@ColumbiaLegal.org>
Subject: Proposed Change to RAP 10.2

Dear Ms. Carlson,

Attached please find a copy of Ms. Madsen's memo regarding the proposed changes to RAP 10.2. If you have any questions please contact our office.

Sincerely,

Ian Marlow, Legal Assistant
Columbia Legal Services
Institutions Project

101 Yesler Way, Suite 300 | Seattle, WA 98104 | (206) 464-1122 Ext. 184