

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment on Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:24:03 AM

From: Alx Dark [mailto:alxdark@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 10:06 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Public Comment on Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT

I am writing in support of the adoption of the RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment.

This amendment to the professional code of conduct prohibits "a lawyer's assertion or inquiry about a third person's immigration status when the lawyer's purpose is to intimidate, coerce, or obstruct that person from participating in a civil matter." This is a reasonable and necessary clarification.

It might help citizen residents of the state to think about the following scenario. What if a person were to appear at a local courthouse for a traffic violation, only to find themselves grilled by a member of the court on whether or not their federal taxes are in good standing? This would clearly create a fear of repercussions and recrimination that have nothing to do with the purpose of the visit to the courthouse.

RPC 4.4 is intended to prevent precisely this kind of unethical harassment in the course of practicing law at our state courthouses. In fact it already should prohibit commentary or threats about immigration status, but since there have been observed instances of this kind of intimidation in our court system, this amendment is necessary.

Alx Dark, Seattle, WA