



January 29, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY supreme@courts.wa.gov

Washington State Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

907 Pine Street
Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98101

**Re: Legal Voice Comments on Rules of Professional Conduct 4.4
COMMENTARY AMENDMENT**

☎ 206-682-9552
☎ 206-682-9556

To Whom It May Concern:

LegalVoice.org

Legal Voice supports the commentary amendment to the Rules of Professional Conduct 4.4 and applaud the efforts to protect the rights of immigrants in our state.

Legal Voice, founded in 1978 as the Northwest Women’s Law Center, is a nonprofit feminist legal organization that seeks to advance the law for all women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in the Pacific Northwest. Legal Voice is committed to achieving racial equity and combatting and illuminating the laws, processes and thinking that keep Black, Indigenous, and People of Color outside the “circle of human concern.”¹

Amending comment 4 in the Rules of Professional Conduct 4.4 to include prosecutors in the rule’s prohibition against reporting people to immigration authorities is appropriate. We strongly believe it is necessary to maintain and promote access to justice for all Washingtonians, regardless of immigration status. Prosecutors are public servants who serve county or city residents regardless of immigration status. When prosecutors are seen as collaborating with immigration authorities, it makes them appear biased against the very people they are bound to serve.

Immigration status or perceived immigration status should not be leveraged against anyone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. West
Staff Attorney

¹ John A. Powell, Director of the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, a research institute that brings together scholars, community advocates, and policymakers to identify and eliminate barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society and to create transformative change toward a more equitable world, <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/circle-human-concern-video-curriculum>

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: RPC 4.4 amendment
Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 12:32:47 PM
Attachments: [4.4 comments.pdf](#)

From: Catherine West [mailto:cwest@legalvoice.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 12:23 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: RPC 4.4 amendment

Comments attached.

Catherine A. West

Attorney

Pronouns: she/her

Legal Voice

Women's rights. Nothing less.

206-682-9552

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