

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 8:08:47 AM

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**From:** Christie Stewart Stein [mailto:jsteinwa@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 2:20 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT

To Whom It May concern:

My name is Christie Stewart Stein. I have been assigned to write on behalf of Indivisible Skagit, an organization of 992 members in Skagit County. We support passage of this rule which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters to us because our community has large numbers of immigrants whom we wish to support. The Rule is needed because:

- **No one should fear that their immigration status prevents them from seeking justice**, whether as a crime victim or otherwise. All individuals have free and open access to Washington courts, regardless of their immigration status.
- **Community trust is a cornerstone of our judicial system.** When an attorney is viewed as an extension of the federal immigration system, noncitizens are less likely to go to court to appear for their hearings, file for protection orders, or appear as witnesses, undermining access to justice. Immigration arrests are causing people to miss court; lawyers should not be facilitating these arrests. Doing so results in undermines trust in the judicial system.
- **Lawyers facilitating courthouse arrests is antithetical to a fair system of justice that must protect all of us.** Lawyers must be trusted to keep one's immigration status confidential. Immigration status or perceived immigration status should not be leveraged against anyone.

Thank you for including these comments in your deliberations.

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