

Date: January 13, 2020

To: Washington Supreme Court

From: Irene Schomus Morrow

Re: *Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT*

I am writing this to support the passage of this rule which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters to me because I have been accompanying immigrants to Ephrata and Othello courthouses and have seen firsthand the devastating effects of courthouse arrests in the local community.

I have seen someone arrested without a warrant by plainclothes individuals and witnessed the emotional trauma and confusion of close family and friends who were left not understanding what had happened. I have also witnessed a person deciding to not go to her court hearing because ICE agents were spotted in the court house thereby forgoing her opportunity to clear up her misdemeanor traffic citation. The fear and mistrust caused by courthouse arrests cause a ripple effect to the entire community, resulting in crimes going unreported, victims or witnesses fearful of speaking up and unnecessary confusion and rescheduling of court dates. The end result is an eroding of our justice system and our community made more vulnerable and overall less safe.

Community trust is integral to our judicial system. Lawyers facilitating courthouse arrests is antithetical to a fair system of justice that must protect us all. All lawyers and prosecutors must be trusted to keep one's immigration status confidential. I urge you to pass this ruling for the sake of safety and justice.

Sincerely,

Irene Schomus Morrow

igsmorrow@gmail.com

Wenatchee for Immigrant Justice

Wenatchee, WA

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Rules of Professional Conduct Comment
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 8:41:07 AM
Attachments: [Rules of Prof Conduct.docx](#)

From: Irene Morrow [mailto:igsmorrow@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 9:45 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Rules of Professional Conduct Comment

I have attached my letter regarding RPC 4.4

Thank you
Irene Morrow