

March 3, 2020

Clerk of the Court  
Washington State Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

VIA email at [supreme@courts.wa.gov](mailto:supreme@courts.wa.gov)

To the Honorable Justices of the Washington Supreme Court:

I am writing on behalf of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to Comment 4 of Rule 4.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC). As outlined more fully below, NWIRP supports the proposed changes to the original proposal as set out by the ACLU of Washington in its January 30, 2020 letter to the court. We believe these changes will strengthen our state's ability to ensure equitable access to its justice system.

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) is a nationally-recognized legal services organization founded in 1984. Each year, NWIRP provides direct legal assistance in immigration matters to thousands of low-income people from over 160 countries, speaking over 70 different languages and dialects. NWIRP also strives to achieve systemic change to policies and practices affecting immigrants through impact litigation, public policy work, and community education. NWIRP serves the community from four offices in Washington State in Seattle, Granger, Tacoma, and Wenatchee.

Through our work serving immigrant communities, we have seen examples of attorneys attempting to undermine the justice process by using—or threatening to use—a person's immigration status in a way that intimidates that person from asserting their legal rights. We are grateful that the Court has already recognized the importance of this issue through the enactment of the current comment 4 but we believe the proposed amendments will strengthen that protection and help ensure our client communities are not denied the opportunity to access justice. Moreover, the proposed changes will not only benefit immigrant communities throughout the state but will be to the benefit of every resident as our entire state is strengthened when all of its residents have equitable access to our justice system.

As noted above, we support the modifications proposed by our colleagues at the ACLU of Washington on their letter of January 30. We appreciate that there has been further engagement on the issues and believe that the modifications will help eliminate confusion in the application of RPC 4.4.

Again, we respectfully ask the Court to adopt the proposed changes to Comment 4 and continue its strong commitment to ensuring equitable access to our justice system for all residents of our state.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at (206) 957-8609 or via email at [jorge@nwirp.org](mailto:jorge@nwirp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Barón". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jorge L. Barón  
Executive Director

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on Proposed Amendments to Comment 4 of RPC 4.4  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 8:04:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [NWIRP Comments re Proposed Changes to RPC 4.4 03-03-20.pdf](#)

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**From:** Jorge Baron [mailto:jorge@nwirp.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 10:56 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Jorge L. Barón <jorge@nwirp.org>  
**Subject:** Comments on Proposed Amendments to Comment 4 of RPC 4.4

Please find attached a letter from Northwest Immigrant Rights Project outlining our support for proposed amendments to Comment 4 of RPC 4.4.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jorge L. Baron

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Jorge L. Barón (*he/him/his*) | Executive Director | [Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#)  
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