

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
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Subject: FW: Public Comment on Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:10:20 AM

From: Melinda Mueller [mailto:mmueller@seattleacademy.org]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 10:55 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Public Comment on Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 COMMENTARY AMENDMENT

My name is Melinda Mueller and I support the passage of this rule which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This matters to me because:

- **Every resident of our State, regardless of immigration status, should have equal access to our courts.** If people fear that they risk deportation by accessing our justice system, the system is neither fair nor effective in protecting individual rights or public safety.
- 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. 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.
- **It is antithetical to a fair system of justice that must protect all of us for lawyers to facilitate courthouse arrests** Lawyers must be trusted to keep one's immigration status confidential. Immigration status or perceived immigration status should not be leveraged against anyone.

Please protect the rights of all WA State residents, and public safety for all communities, by passing this rule.

Sincerely,
Melinda Mueller
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Seattle, WA 98117