

Washington Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Rules of Professional Conduct – RPC 4.4 Commentary Amendment

Submitted Via: supreme@courts.wa.gov

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

On behalf of United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 21, we write to state our support for the passage of Rules of Professional Conduct - RPC 4.4 which will protect the rights of immigrants in our state. This rule matters to UFCW21 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.

For the reasons outline above, we request your support for adoption of this rule.

Sincerely,

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment re: GR 38 and RPC 4.4
Date: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:06:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Public Comment RPC 4.4 UFCW 21.docx](#)
[Public Comment GR 38 UFCW 21.docx](#)

From: Samantha Grad [mailto:sgrad@ufcw21.org]
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:02 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Cariño Barragan <CBarragan@UFCW21.org>
Subject: Public Comment re: GR 38 and RPC 4.4

Hello,

Please see attached for public comment on behalf of UFCW 21 re: both GR 38 and RPC 4.4.

Please let myself or Cariño Barragan, cc'ed here, know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail.

Thanks.

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