



## Northwest Justice Project

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César E. Torres  
Executive Director

April 28, 2022

Via Email to [supreme@courts.wa.gov](mailto:supreme@courts.wa.gov)

Justice Charles Johnson  
Justice Mary Yu  
Co-Chairs, Supreme Court Rules Committee  
Washington Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

RE: Proposed Changes to CJC 2.2 and 2.6

Dear Supreme Court Justices Johnson and Yu:

The Northwest Justice Project (NJP) writes in support of the Superior Court Judges' Association's proposed amendments to Code of Judicial Conduct Rules 2.2 and 2.6.

Washington State recognizes that "[t]he provision of civil legal aid services to indigent persons is an important component of the state's responsibility to provide for the proper and effective administration of civil and criminal justice." RCW 2.53.005. The Northwest Justice Project is the largest provider of civil legal aid in Washington State, employing over 165 attorneys working in 19 offices across the state. Even with the services available through NJP and other providers of civil legal services, the need for services is not being met and unrepresented litigants continue to make up a large percentage of litigants appearing in Washington courts.

The civil legal system can be confusing and difficult to navigate for attorneys, let alone an unrepresented litigant. These proposed amendments are an important step forward in helping pro se litigants to work their way through this system. Currently, there is little guidance for judges to follow when an unrepresented litigant appears before them. This lack of clarity and guidance results in very different interactions across the state. The proposed amendments provide concrete examples of steps that judges can take when pro se litigants appear in front of them and promote uniformity for judges across the state.

Northwest Justice Project supports these proposed amendments.

Sincerely,

Mary Welch  
Statewide Advocacy Counsel  
Northwest Justice Project

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NJP Comments - Proposed Amendments to CJC rules 2.2 and 2.6  
**Date:** Friday, April 29, 2022 10:02:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [NJP Letter re Proposed Amendments to CJC rules 2.2 and 2.6.pdf](#)

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**From:** Mary Welch [mailto:maryw@nwjustice.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2022 9:58 AM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** NJP Comments - Proposed Amendments to CJC rules 2.2 and 2.6

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Enclosed please find NJP's comments in support of the proposed amendments to CJC rules 2.2 and 2.6. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,

**Mary Welch – Statewide Advocacy Counsel**

Northwest Justice Project

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[www.nwjustice.org](http://www.nwjustice.org) | [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)

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