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Diana Singleton
Equity and Justice Manager
(206) 727-8205
dianas@wsba.org



April 1, 2021

The Honorable Charles Johnson, Chair
Washington State Supreme Court Rules Committee
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929
Sent via email: supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: Proposed Amendments to Admission and Practice Rule 11(c)

Dear Justice Johnson,

I write on behalf of the Access to Justice Board in support of the proposed amendment of Admission and Practice Rule 11(c).

The Access to Justice Board supports the amendment to APR 11 to require at least one ethics credit from among the existing required credit threshold to involve education in equity, inclusion, and the mitigation of implicit and explicit bias in the legal profession and the practice of law.

The proposed modification to APR 11 is consistent with the ATJ Board's 2020-22 priorities, which highlight the importance of promoting systemic and internal race-equity practices, working toward a vision that race or color does not determine the availability and quality of services, fairness of outcomes, or opportunities for communities and individuals. The proposed modification would also support the goals of the ATJ Board and all of the members of the Alliance for Equal Justice as we continue the work outlined in the most recent State Plan for the Coordinated Delivery of Civil Legal Aid to Low Income People, which centers around race equity. The proposed modification is also consistent with the ATJ Board's participation in the Washington Race Equity and Justice Initiative, and the ATJ Board's Call to Action to convene members of the Alliance for Equal Justice to work for racial justice at every level in our legal system.

The ATJ Board unanimously voted at its March 26, 2021, meeting to support the amendment to APR 11 and believes the amendment will further race equity in our legal community.

Sincerely,

Francis Adewale, Chair
Access to Justice Board

Cc: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: ATJ Board Comment Regarding APR 11
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:26:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[2021.4.1.ATJ Board APR 11 Comment.pdf](#)

From: Bonnie Sterken [mailto:bonnies@wsba.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:25 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Terra Nevitt <terran@wsba.org>; Diana Singleton <dianas@wsba.org>; Adewale, Francis <fadewale@spokanecity.org>; David.Keenan@kingcounty.gov
Subject: ATJ Board Comment Regarding APR 11

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Good afternoon,

Attached, please find a comment from the ATJ Board regarding the proposed revisions to APR 11.

Take care



Bonnie Middleton Sterken | Equity and Justice Specialist

Washington State Bar Association | bonnies@wsba.org

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600 | Seattle, WA 98101-2539 | www.wsba.org

Pronouns: She/Her

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