

April 26, 2021

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



RE: Proposed Amendment to Admission and Practice Rule 11

Dear Clerk of the Washington Supreme Court:

On behalf of Legal Voice, I am writing to submit comments of support on the proposed amendment to Admission to Practice Rule (APR) 11 which would require all licensed legal professionals to complete at least one ethics credit every three years on the topic of bias, equity, and inclusion as part of mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE). The proposed rule change is one step that must be taken to combat the long history of racial disparity and violence in the United States and the role the legal community has played in upholding white supremacy and systemic injustices.

For context, Legal Voice is a nonprofit public interest organization that works to advance and defend the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in the Northwest through ground-breaking litigation, legislative advocacy, and public education. Legal Voice specifically advocates for gender justice with an anti-racist lens and with a community lawyering model.

Legal Voice is dedicated to dismantling oppressive structures that maintain systemic and institutionalized racism. We are deeply saddened and angry at the confluence of recent events of racial violence against the AAPI community and against Black and Brown members of our community and believe that APR 11 is one step of many the legal profession must take to confront our role in creating and upholding white supremacy. Requiring training for bias, equity, and inclusion is one important step to confronting racism and white supremacy, but the legal community must also do more to meet this systemic problem with systemic solutions.

In addition to adopting APR 11, the Washington legal community must lead uncomfortable and difficult conversations to examine our role in creating and maintaining white supremacy and actively work to dismantle it. APR 11 will help to allow legal professionals to recognize and address our own biases and better represent Washington's diverse community. Building upon this important training, we must also recognize and confront the inequity and injustice that is the legacy of slavery, of Jim Crow, of racial exclusion laws, and of the disproportionate incarceration of BIPOC communities.

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LegalVoice.org

Women's rights. Nothing less.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Chappell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Courtney Chappell
Advocacy Director

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Legal Voice Comments to Suggested Amendment to APR 11
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 8:01:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[APR 11 Mandatory CLE Race Equity.pdf](#)

From: Courtney Chappell [mailto:cchappell@legalvoice.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 6:29 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Legal Voice Comments to Suggested Amendment to APR 11

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Sincerely,



Courtney Chappell

Advocacy Director

Pronouns: she/her

Legal Voice

Women's rights. Nothing less.

206-682-9552 x103

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