



**Bob Ferguson**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**

Administration Division  
PO Box 40100 • Olympia, WA 98504-0100 • (360) 753-6200

April 21, 2022

*Sent via Electronic Mail*

Erin L. Lennon, Clerk  
Washington State Supreme Court  
Temple of Justice  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929  
Email: [supreme@courts.wa.gov](mailto:supreme@courts.wa.gov)

**RE: Order Number 25700-A-1391: Suggested Amendments to the Civil Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Proposed by the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee**

Dear Ms. Lennon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the suggested amendments proposed by the WSBA Court Rules and Procedures Committee to amend the Civil Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction to make rule language gender neutral. We support the amendments to these rules that update the language used in court rules to be more inclusive, and to remove biased terms. As with a number of the rule changes under current consideration, we support efforts to make the legal profession more inclusive and less biased with the goal of providing justice in its truest sense for all. These proposed amendments promote inclusivity, the elimination of bias, and a respectful courtroom setting that benefits all Washingtonians. To some, these changes may seem superficial or as merely a gesture toward broader goals. We disagree with this view. The language we use reflects our values. Every time a person hears non-inclusive language in a courtroom or reads a rule with biased terms, it reinforces a perception that courts and justice are for some and not all. But each time a person hears or reads language that is inclusive, non-biased and respectful, it sends a clear message that all are welcome and all will be treated fairly and

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Erin L. Lennon  
April 21, 2022  
Page 2

respectfully by the justice system. Changing the rules as proposed is a welcome and necessary step forward.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BOB FERGUSON  
Attorney General

RWF/eg

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#); [Tracy, Mary](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Rules Published for Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 3:06:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [No. 1 Code of Judicial Conduct 2.2 and 2.6 Right to Be Heard.pdf](#)  
[No. 2 Code of Judicial Conduct 2.3 Bias Prejudice and Harassment.pdf](#)  
[No. 3 GR 26 Mandatory Continuing Judicial Education.pdf](#)  
[No. 4 RPC 8.4 Misconduct.pdf](#)  
[No. 5 Biased and Inclusive Language.pdf](#)  
[No. 6 RAP 2.5 Scope of Review.pdf](#)  
[No. 7 Civil Rules Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.pdf](#)  
[No. 8 GR 11 Purpose and Scope of Interpreter Commission.pdf](#)  
[No. 9 Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Proposed Repeal of Criminal Rule.pdf](#)  
[No. 10 APR 9 Licensed Legal Intern.pdf](#)

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**From:** Ganga, Elaine L (ATG) [<mailto:elaine.ganga@atg.wa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 2:21 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Cc:** Mitchell, Kristen (ATG) <kristen.mitchell@atg.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Rules Published for Comment

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Ms. Lennon,

Attached are ten letters regarding the various proposed rules published for comment.

Thank you,

*Elaine Ganga*

*Executive Assistant*

*Office of the Attorney General*

*Administration Division*

*P.O. Box 40100*

*Olympia, WA 98504*

*Phone: (360) 753-9672*