



Bob Ferguson

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

Administration Division

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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

RE: Order No. 25700-A-1375: Suggested Amendments Proposed by the Consortium to Address Biased and Non-Inclusive Language in Court Rules

Dear Ms. Lennon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the suggested amendments proposed by the Consortium to Address Biased and Non-Inclusive Language in Court Rules. The proposals cover rules found in the:

- Admission to Practice Rules (APRs)
- Code of Judicial Conduct (CJC)
- Discipline Rules for Judges (DRJ)
- Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct (ELCs)
- Rules for Enforcement of Limited Practice Officer Conduct (ELPOCs)
- Rules of Evidence (ERs)
- General Rules (GRs)
- Limited License Legal Technician Rules of Professional Conduct (LLLT RPCs)
- Limited Practice Officer Rules of Professional Conduct (LPO RPCs)
- Rules of Professional Conduct (RPCs)

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

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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 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 from the end.

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](#)

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

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