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To: [Martinez, Jacquelyn](#)
Subject: FW: Support for proposed Changes to RPC 1.8 – Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules
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From: Kate Francis <KateF@kcba.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 30, 2023 9:00 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: [Suspicious URL] Support for proposed Changes to RPC 1.8 – Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules

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Hello,

We are the Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Project (DV LEAD), part of King County Bar Association's Pro Bono Services Department. Our team supports the proposed amendment to Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(e) that will permit legal aid and volunteer attorneys to pay certain costs and expenses of litigation for indigent clients without repayment.

DV LEAD is a program dedicated to representing survivors of domestic violence through protection order proceedings and family law cases. DV LEAD employs both staff and volunteer attorneys to advocate for survivors, specifically focusing on cases where children are at risk due to domestic violence and where survivors face additional barriers to justice in accessing the court system.

Allowing pro bono and legal aid lawyers to assist to pay some costs of indigent clients without expecting repayment would improve the fairness and quality of legal representation in Washington while expanding access to justice for low-income clients. The proposed amendment largely tracks, with some modifications, American Bar Association Model Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(e).

We believe that the Washington Supreme Court should adopt the proposed amendment to RPC 1.8(e). Our communities are not well served if costs stop domestic violence survivors from pursuing otherwise meritorious claims needed to protect their safety.

Thank you,

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For more information on the King County Bar Foundation, and how you can help, click [here](#).

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