

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: NWIRP comments regarding proposed amendments to RPC 1.8  
**Date:** Monday, May 1, 2023 8:09:25 AM

---

**From:** Jorge L. Barón <jorge@nwirp.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** NWIRP comments regarding proposed amendments to RPC 1.8

**External Email Warning!** This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

Members of the Supreme Court Rules Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to RPC 1.8 that were published for comment in March 2022.

Founded in 1984, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) is a nationally-recognized legal services organization dedicated to advancing and defending the rights of low-income immigrants. Each year, NWIRP provides direct legal assistance in immigration matters to thousands of people from over 145 countries, speaking over 60 different languages. NWIRP also strives to achieve systemic change to policies and practices affecting immigrants through impact litigation, public policy work, and community education. NWIRP serves the community from four offices in Washington State in Seattle, Granger, Tacoma, and Wenatchee.

As a nonprofit provider of immigration legal services, our staff is frequently working with clients with urgent needs for support with basic living expenses. While we work to connect our clients to social service resources in the community, our clients face particular challenges because many of them are ineligible for some programs that can support basic living expenses due to restrictions based on immigration status. Because of these circumstances, we support the proposed amendment to RPC 1.8 that would clarify that our organization is able to provide modest gifts to help clients with urgent basic needs.

Similarly, we support the proposed amendments to RPC 1.8 because they clarify that we may pay for costs and expenses of litigation on behalf of a client, subject to specific restrictions.

We urge the Supreme Court to adopt the proposed amendments to RPC 1.8.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Respectfully submitted,

Jorge L. Barón  
Executive Director  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

---

Jorge L. Barón (*he/him/his*) | Executive Director | Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
615 Second Ave., Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98104 | email: [jorge@nwirp.org](mailto:jorge@nwirp.org)  
Direct: (206) 957-8609 | Fax: (206) 587-4025 | [www.nwirp.org](http://www.nwirp.org)

If you need assistance from Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, we encourage you to contact us by phone. If you are not already a client, click [here](#) for more information on how to reach us at the office closest to you.

*Si necesita ayuda del proyecto para los derechos del inmigrante del noroeste, le recomendamos que se comuniquen con nosotros por teléfono. Si aún no es cliente, haga clic [aquí](#) para obtener más información sobre cómo comunicarse con nosotros en la oficina más cercana a usted.*