

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support for proposed Changes to RPC 1.8 – Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:41:37 PM

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**From:** Monte Jewell <mjewell@jfsseattle.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:31 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Support for proposed Changes to RPC 1.8 – Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules

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We urge adoption of the proposed amendment to Rule of Professional Conduct 1.8(e) that will permit legal aid and pro bono lawyers to pay certain costs and expenses of litigation for indigent clients.

We are Project DVORA, a program of Jewish Family Service in Seattle that provides community-based advocacy for survivors of domestic violence in Washington state, including culturally specific services for survivors in our Jewish communities.

Project DVORA offers survivor-centered, trauma-informed services that include systems advocacy, education, flexible financial assistance, supportive group and individual therapy, and holistic legal aid, particularly in contested domestic relations matters.

Project DVORA clients often have increased economic needs, partly as a result of their unmet legal needs and their status as survivors of domestic violence. Our clients are frequently unable to pay basic litigation costs, such as paying to translate legal documents or to receive a copy of their court file. Without help to pay such costs, they risk losing their access to Washington courts and to life-saving protections that they are otherwise legally entitled to receive.

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.

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Monte Jewell, אים/ער (he/him)

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