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THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

MEMBER

April 29, 2023

Justice Charles Johnson
Justice Mary Yu
Co-Chairs, Supreme Court Rules Committee
Washington Supreme Court
415 12th Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501-2314

RE: Proposed Amendments to RPC 1.15A and 1.15B, and ELC 15.7

Dear Justices Johnson and Yu,

I write on behalf of the Access to Justice Board in support of proposed amendments to Rules of Professional Conduct ("RPC") 1.15A and 1.15B, and Rule for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct ("ELC") 15.7. The amendments proposed by the Legal Foundation of Washington ("LFW") have the potential to increase funding for civil legal aid, and the Board urges their adoption.

Despite the tremendous work of the Office of Civil Legal Aid and the numerous civil legal aid providers comprising the Alliance for Equal Justice, the Board knows from its work and the important input of impacted communities serving on the Board's Community Advisory Panel that there is still tremendous unmet need among low-income persons facing civil legal problems in Washington. These needs are disproportionately found among BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and disabled members of our community. Funding from the Legislature, the Legal Services Corporation, LFW, and other sources helps, and yet many in our community are unable to vindicate their important rights when they cannot access civil legal aid. This significant need makes it vital that we look to diverse sources of funding.

Under LFW's proposed amendments, funds which now might simply be turned over to the state and go unclaimed, would instead be put to good use to help address the pressing civil legal needs of some of our most vulnerable community members.

The Access to Justice Board supports proposed amendments to RPCs 1.15A and 1.15B and ELC 15.7, and hopes the Court will approve them.

Sincerely,

Terry Price, Chair
Access to Justice Board

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Cc: Terra Nevitt, Executive Director, Washington State Bar Association

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Martinez, Jacquelynn](#)
Subject: FW: Proposed Amendments to RPC 1.15A and 1.15B, and ELC 15.7
Date: Monday, May 1, 2023 8:30:25 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[2023.4.29.RPC 1.15A and 1.15B, ELC 15.7.ATJ Board Comment.pdf](#)

From: Bonnie Sterken <bonnies@wsba.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 7:31 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Cc: Terry J. Price <tprice@uw.edu>; Keenan, David <David.Keenan@kingcounty.gov>; Terra Nevitt <terran@wsba.org>; Diana Singleton <dianas@wsba.org>
Subject: Proposed Amendments to RPC 1.15A and 1.15B, and ELC 15.7

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Hello,

Attached please find a comment from the Access to Justice Board regarding the proposed amendments to RPC 1.15A and 1.15B, and ELC 15.7.

Thank you,



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Pronouns: She/Her

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