## ER 502 ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND WORK PRODUCT; LIMITATIONS ON WAIVER

The following provisions apply, in the circumstances set out, to disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection.

- (a) Disclosure Made in a Washington Proceeding or to a Washington Office or Agency; Scope of a Waiver. When the disclosure is made in a Washington proceeding or to a Washington office or agency and waives the attorney-client privilege or work-product protection, the waiver extends to an undisclosed communication or information in any proceeding only if:
  - (1) the waiver is intentional;
- (2) the disclosed and undisclosed communications or information concern the same subject matter; and
  - (3) they ought in fairness be considered together.
- **(b) Inadvertent Disclosure.** When made in a Washington proceeding or to a Washington office or agency, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in any proceeding if:
  - (1) the disclosure is inadvertent;
  - (2) the holder of the privilege or protection took reasonable steps to prevent disclosure; and
- (3) the holder promptly took reasonable steps to rectify the error, including (if applicable) following CR 26(b)(6).
- **(c) Disclosure Made in a Non-Washington Proceeding.** When the disclosure is made in a non-Washington proceeding and is not the subject of a court order concerning waiver, the disclosure does not operate as a waiver in a Washington proceeding if the disclosure:
- (1) would not be a waiver under this rule if it had been made in a Washington proceeding; or
  - (2) is not a waiver under the law of the jurisdiction where the disclosure occurred.
- (d) Controlling Effect of a Court Order. A Washington court may order that the privilege or protection is not waived by disclosure connected with the litigation pending before the court--in which event the disclosure is also not a waiver in any other proceeding.
- **(e) Controlling Effect of a Party Agreement.** An agreement on the effect of disclosure in a Washington proceeding is binding only on the parties to the agreement, unless it is incorporated into a court order.
  - **(f) Definitions.** In this rule:
- (1) "attorney-client privilege" means the protection that applicable law provides for confidential attorney-client communications; and
- (2) "work-product protection" means the protection that applicable law provides for tangible material (or its intangible equivalent) prepared in anticipation of litigation or for trial.

[Adopted effective September 1, 2010.]