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May 13, 2026

Rosanna Wadkins, Superior Court Administrator
205 W. Kincaid Street, Room 202
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Re: Support for Adoption of New Local Rule 34 and Revisions to Local Rule 30

Dear Superior Court Administrator:

On behalf of GLP Attorneys, we submit this comment in support of the proposed adoption of Local Rule 34 and revisions to Local Rule 30 concerning civil fee waivers in Skagit County Superior Court.

As a law firm representing clients across Skagit County, we regularly engage with court processes that affect access to filing and case progression. While our practice spans a range of civil matters, we share a strong interest in ensuring that court procedures are efficient, predictable, and accessible to all litigants.

From a practitioner standpoint, the current fee waiver process introduces avoidable inefficiencies into the system. The need to separately present fee waiver applications, navigate limited ex parte availability, and delay filing of underlying pleadings can slow case initiation and create unnecessary administrative burdens for both counsel and court staff.

The proposed rule changes would address these concerns in a practical way. In particular:

- Allowing fee waivers and underlying pleadings to be filed together would streamline case initiation;
- Permitting electronic filing would modernize the process and reduce reliance on in-person appearances which at times are a significant financial barrier to indigent clients who are often without means of transportation to and from the courthouse or without the ability to secure childcare or take time off of work for mid-work week in person appearances. Reduction of required in person filings will further serve to reduce interactions between court staff and the public in instances where viral illnesses and inclement weather are further at play;
- Eliminating unnecessary presentation requirements would improve efficiency for litigants, attorneys, and the Court.



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These updates would not only improve access for low-income litigants, but also enhance overall court operations by reducing congestion in ex parte calendars and minimizing duplicative procedural steps.

From our perspective, aligning local practice with statewide standards under GR 34 is a reasonable and necessary step. Clear, consistent procedures benefit all participants in the legal system and support timely resolution of civil matters.

We appreciate the Court's consideration of these proposed changes and encourage their adoption.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tirra Seely'.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Garrison'.

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