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Comment:

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Proposed Amendment of MCR 1.109

“With all due respect.”

I hear this phrase often, mostly being applied as a negative, followed by a disagreeing perspective. However, this amendment is a perfect positive application of this phrase. We are all due basic respect, especially by a system in which we look to for guidance and support. If those in authority do not show respect for all, they are certain to encourage the same disrespect from others.

Most of the opinions I have read objecting to this amendment are based on people’s personal opinions, hateful bigotry, or a feeling as if their religious beliefs should somehow govern, at the least, everyone else’s behavior, and at most, the laws that we must abide by. This is not only unsupported by the Constitution, but is being used as a hammer on a daily basis to deny people basic rights and respect simply because others disagree with their point of view, or worse, their fundamental understanding of who they are.

The usage of respectful pronouns by the Court harms no one. The disregard of basic respect for others harms everyone. Most people don’t understand that until the subject is something they personally care about. I wholeheartedly support this amendment. It is simply basic human decency.

Thank you.

Julie Staley