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January 14, 2009

Honorable Charles W. Johnson  
Washington State Supreme Court  
Temple of Justice  
PO Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Justice Johnson,

RE: Proposed Rule APR 28, Legal Technicians

As President of the Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA), I am writing to inform you that the Board of Trustees voted on December 6, 2008, to oppose proposed APR 28, creating a new category of paraprofessionals to act as Legal Technicians. While the intent of the rule is intended to meet an existing need within our communities, specifically in the area of family law, elder law and landlord-tenant law, the Board members do not support the rule as drafted.

It is worthy to mention that the proposed rule has been carefully considered by the Family and Juvenile Law Committee (FJLC), a subcommittee of the SCJA, numerous times. The participants on the FJLC are a committed group of judicial officers and we rely on their expertise in the areas of law contemplated in this rule. The Chair of the FJLC, Judge Kitty Ann van Doorninck, relayed various comments in favor and opposed to the rule. Ultimately, the FJLC voted to oppose the draft in a very close vote.

Please let me know if there is anything additional you require from the SCJA on this issue.

Sincerely,

Judge Richard McDermott  
SCJA President

cc: Judge Kitty Ann van Doorninck, FJLC  
Camilla Faulk  
Stephen Crossland, Practice of Law Board  
Janet Skreen  
Nancy Sullins  
SCJA Board of Trustees

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