

Faulk, Camilla

From: Terry D. Gobel [terrygobel@attorneyinspokane.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 9:32 AM
To: Faulk, Camilla

Importance: High

Dear Supreme Court Clerk,

I have reviewed the limited practice materials. I oppose pursuit of this avenue. Most people who contact my office for services, but whom do not have funds to pay could not pay at any price. I believe this is a remedy which is inappropriate for the perceived problem. I only hope that some day the WSBA and Supreme Court would place as much effort toward informing the public that the fees charged by lawyers are worth the price.

Substantively, I am concerned that while the method for admission to limited practice is put forward, the areas of practice are not. The two issues cannot be segregated. Especially in the area of family law, there are potentially complex constitutional, taxation, real property, estate planning and criminal issues, which may easily be missed by a paraprofessional. For example, a person may need to make an affidavit on finances in a child support matter, but without careful investigation and analysis, the paraprofessional may cause them to make an admission against interest, which exposes them to civil penalties or criminal liability for tax evasion. A person of limited skill will not know that they are walking on a knife edge until they get cut by it. Also, there are a great number of solo practice lawyers who struggle to make ends meet in the market place, especially in today's high risk economy.

By further congesting the market with paraprofessionals who can do the "same" service, but charge less there is a great disservice to attorneys. Citizens who are desperate for legal representation will not know the difference between a lawyer and paraprofessional - they just want a warm body in their corner. I believe that this program will be confusing to the public, diminish the attorney's standing in the market, cause more serious problems which will require a great deal of money and skilled attorney services to fix, and general further disparage the image of family law as being of the lowest order of legal skill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

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