

**Tracy, Mary**

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**From:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2016 4:32 PM  
**To:** Tracy, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Rules for Comment APR 28 F

Supreme Court Clerk's Office

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**From:** bartgp2@gmail.com [mailto:bartgp2@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>; Terry J. Price <tprice@uw.edu>  
**Subject:** Proposed Rules for Comment APR 28 F

**4/28/2016**

Dear Supreme Court Justices—

I am a student in the University of Washington Family Law, commonly referred to as the “third cohort” and a recent graduate from the Edmonds Community College. Having received the required degree in Paralegal studies. I hope to take the LLLT bar exam in August of 2016.

I am only writing about APR 28 (F)

In writing legal letters, I think this proposed change is needed. I believe that LLLT's should not be allowed to draft “opinion letters”, those letters are commonly drafted by attorneys and state a specific claim toward a legal issue for anyone who reads them to see. In writing to our client the specific issue relating to their case, this legal letter is necessary in our serving the client. I believe a LLLT should act as a “speaking agent” for our client as well.

In the civil needs study the greatest need for the public was in the areas of: family law, elder law, landlord tenant law, and immigration law. In order to serve that need the proposed rule APR 28 was submitted to the Supreme Court. Initially the idea was shot down 16 to 1. After a re-write the legislation was sent to the Supreme court again, this time the vote was 12 to 2. Again the State has recognized that the public is suffering because of the great legal need the State has, they again re-wrote the APR and this time it was voted in in 2012. The first ever practice area is family law, because that is the greatest need. In years to come this will branch out toward landlord tenant law and elder law practice areas as well.

The phrase that an LLLT could, “draft legal letters...if the work is reviewed and approved by a Washington lawyer” has a meaning not intended in the day to day practice of civil procedure. I believe that phrase was meant in the drafting “legal opinion letter’s” not in “advice letters” to our client’s. I know that the high cost of seeing a lawyer has brought about this great need. Most poor and middle class can’t afford what a lawyer would charge. I know this program is only starting in this state, as a model for the whole country to follow.

In reviewing the proposed changes, I would ask that you give these rules the credit they are due to them. Most of my classmates have taken at least three years of college, at least half of them have Masters Degrees. I think of behalf of our client we should be able to call DSHS or DCS and speak for them in a family law role. I also think that of our client’s behalf we absolutely must be able to draft legal letters. That is what we have been taught to do in UW law school and the ABA approved community college for the past 3 years.

Sincerely,

George Pfingst ATA

Student University of Washington Family Law Program

[bartgp2@gmail.com](mailto:bartgp2@gmail.com)

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