

## Tracy, Mary

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**From:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Sent:** Monday, August 27, 2018 8:16 AM  
**To:** Hinchcliffe, Shannon; Jennings, Cindy  
**Subject:** FW: Family Law Enhancements - LLLT Rule, Statement in support of suggested amendments

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**From:** Deborah Ellen Baker [mailto:Bakerwa1@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 25, 2018 1:08 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** RE: Family Law Enhancements - LLLT Rule, Statement in support of suggested amendments

August 25, 2018

Washington Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 40929  
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

**Subject:** Family Law Enhancements  
Statement in Support of LLLT Rule, Suggested Amendments  
ADMISSION AND PRACTICE RULES (APR) 28  
Sections C, D, and Regulation 3

Dear Reviewer(s),

I live in rural Whatcom County and I see that not having enough money to hire a lawyer has a disparate impact on women. Often the men in the rural areas have jobs that pay very well – refineries, logging, heavy equipment operator, construction; while women are either stay-at-home moms or work for minimum wage in service industry jobs. Access to the legal system is impaired by the economics of gender and obstructed by a person's lack of sophistication and disabilities.

The proposed enhancements to the LLLT practice would expand the ability of the LLLTs to provide better access to the courts. I support adding the ability to divide real estate. Frequently the only asset of any value (besides the pickup truck) is some minimal amount of equity in the family home. Many people do not know how to understand and write up the division of equity in the home or to provide remedies when the agreed division is not followed.

I also support the idea that a LLLT can go to court with the client. Even with the proper paperwork, self-represented litigants are terrified of going to court. People have mental health problems, literacy issues or cognitive impairments but still need a divorce. Having a support person who is also a legal resource will make the court experience better for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments with significant potential to tangibly improve equitable access to the legal system.

Very truly yours,

D. Ellen Baker

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Cc: 42<sup>nd</sup> District Representatives Vincent Buys and Luanne VanWerven, State Sen. Doug Ericksen