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September 14, 2018

Washington Supreme Court
415 12th Street W
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Proposed LLLT Rule Change

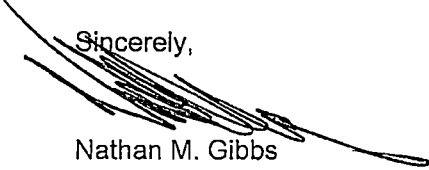
Dear Justices,

I was shocked and disappointed when I heard that the WSBA was considering changes to expand the scope of LLLTs. It is frustrating to know that the Bar Association would be so willing to abdicate its responsibility to its members and the public. The inevitable result of the decision to expand the LLLT scope would be disastrous for the following reasons:

1. LLLTs are only required to have a college degree. There is a reason why attorneys attend law school. It provides a rigorous and demanding curriculum designed to rewire an individual's brain so they know how to properly analyze the law and identify important issues; among other important skills. The minimal education that LLLTs have received is no substitute for the education of an attorney. It is a disservice to the public to enable less qualified individuals to assist them in important legal matters that will have serious ramifications upon their lives.
2. Other state bar associations have already rejected similar proposals. The primary reasoning is that more information is needed to determine the efficacy of the LLLT program. That is the situation in Washington. Rather than jump right into expanding the LLLT scope, more study should be authorized to determine the impact to the public and attorneys in the state.
3. If the concern is improved access to the legal system for low income individuals, there are better options beyond giving LLLTs de facto attorney status. Compulsory pro bono work may be an option, as would increased funding for legal aid societies.

The bottom line is that this is a half baked idea that will have potentially disastrous consequences for the public and licensed attorneys in this state. At a minimum, more study is needed before the Bar decides to expand the LLLT scope.

Sincerely,



Nathan M. Gibbs
WSBA #43594

Tracy, Mary

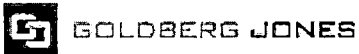
From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 3:10 PM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Comment on LLLT Proposal
Attachments: Against LLLT Proposal.pdf

From: Nathan Gibbs [mailto:ngibbs@goldbergjones.com]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 3:02 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment on LLLT Proposal

Please see attached. Thank you.

Nathan M. Gibbs

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