

Faulk, Camilla

From: Deana Pollard Sacks [ProfessorPollard@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2008 8:13 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Family Law Technicians

I think this is a wonderful idea, because it should bring down costs to the vast majority of families who struggle to afford legal services, and thereby reduce financial stress. Research has shown that the longer parties litigate divorce issues, for example, the more damaging it is to children, probably because of the stress the parents are dealing with (both emotional and financial), which is exacerbated as litigation continues.

Even as to less contentious family law matters, this will benefit Washingtonians and their children by providing greater access to legal services (because more people will be providing services), presumably at reduced costs.

In addition, family law is highly specialized, and fairly circumscribed. It is an area of law in which a non-lawyer can become very adept, particularly since so many forms are involved. Familiarity with forms and the family court processes seems to be the key to family law practice, and many aspects of family litigation appear amenable to delegation to a non-lawyer.

I applaud this development and I hope it works out for Washington.

Thank you for requesting members' input.

Deana Pollard Sacks (WSBA No. 24360)
Professor of Law
713.927.9935 - cell phone
832.978.1992 - alternate cell
713.290.1354 - home phone/fax #
ProfessorPollard@comcast.net