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THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

SUPPORTER

November 7, 2014

Chief Justice Barbara Madsen
Washington State Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0920

RE: Proposed Rules of Professional Conduct for Limited License Legal Technicians (LLLTs)

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

The Access to Justice Board appreciates the work of the LLLT Board and the thoughtful process that has gone in to developing the proposed Rules of Professional Conduct. Recognizing the potential for LLLTs to increase access to the civil justice system, the Access to Justice Board is an enthusiastic supporter of the LLLT rule and we appreciate the leadership of the Court, the LLLT Board and the Washington State Bar Association in swiftly advancing this innovative program.

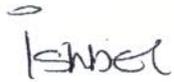
We recognize the hard work of the Rules of Professional Conduct Subcommittee of the LLLT Board in developing the proposed LLLT RPCs. This Subcommittee included three experts in legal ethics, as well as representatives sensitive to access to justice issues. As indicated in the GR 9 memorandum to the Court, and as otherwise made known to the ATJ Board, the Subcommittee had to make some difficult choices in arriving at a balanced approach for a brand new set of circumstances. Given the care that went into developing the proposed RPCs, and the fact that those familiar with access to justice issues were actively involved in the process, the ATJ Board does not wish to undermine the Subcommittee's hard work and expertise with a detailed review of the RPCs. This said, the Access to Justice Board does have concerns that the use of the terms like "law firm" and "legal practitioner" to describe operations and services offered by LLLTs have the potential to confuse the public and, in particular, vulnerable populations. We would encourage consideration of terminology not traditionally used for lawyers in describing the LLLTs in communications directed outwardly to clients or potential clients.

This is a novel endeavor that requires a shift in thinking about the practice of law. The ATJ Board expects and hopes that how the LLLT RPCs are applied in practice will be closely monitored and that, if needed, adjustments to these rules will be made to protect the public.

Page 2

Thus, we are pleased to offer our support for these proposed Rules of Professional Conduct while urging the Court, the LLLT Board, and WSBA to give careful thought to how LLLTs will be monitored and regulated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ishbel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish above the letter 'i'.

Ishbel Dickens
Access to Justice Board Chair

CC: Stephen R. Crossland, LLLT Board Chair
Ellen Dial, LLLT Board RPC Committee Chair
Paul Bastine, Board of Governors Liaison to the ATJ Board
Ann Danieli, Board of Governors Liaison to the ATJ Board
Paula Littlewood, WSBA Executive Director
Jean McElroy, WSBA General Counsel & Chief Regulatory Counsel