

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Limited Practice Rule for Limited License Legal Technicians Comment

Here is another comment regarding the LLLT

From: Sylvia A. Miller [mailto:seattlemiller@seattlemiller.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 11:04 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject: Limited Practice Rule for Limited License Legal Technicians Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an attorney whose practice is limited to serving clients in the area of immigration law. There are over 400 licensed attorneys in Washington who are also members of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association. I have heard many potential clients tell me nightmare stories about how now-lawyers filed documents with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services only to get them to deported or make their cases extremely complicated with little hope of winning. And the non-lawyers often charge the same fee or more than I charge for the same service.

Immigration law is extremely complex, always changing and the consequences are severe. In some countries if a client is deported, there is a huge risk of harm-- including death. Even if one is deported (removed is actually the proper legal term) to a country where the risk of harm is not so severe, these immigrants often have spouses, children, parents and siblings who live in the U.S. The consequences for not only the removed immigrant but also their U.S. citizen children and other family members is severe and long lasting. Imagine losing your mom at age 5, not to see her again but maybe once a year for ten or twenty years. You need only review one or two 9th Circuit or U.S. Supreme Court cases to understand how extremely complex immigration law really is.

Possibly because we don't practice in state and county courts, other attorneys are not aware of our numbers or the complexity of this area of law. NWIRP provides excellent legal services to immigrants and low or no cost. It would be wonderful if more people gave money to this incredible non-for-profit. Many of us are solo practitioners and charge very reasonable legal fees. For more complex cases there are a number of excellent law firms in Seattle that handle only immigration cases. Some are even nationally recognized for their class action work.

There is no "easy" case in immigration. There is no immigration form that doesn't ask questions that could have harsh consequences for the applicant or petitioner. I sincerely hope that you will take all of this into consideration when considering whether immigration law should be allowed as one of the fields for Limited License Legal Technicians. Immigration law **most definitely should NOT** be an area for limited license legal technicians.

Sincerely,

Sylvia A. Miller (WSBA #34912)
Sylvia A. Miller, Attorney at Law, PLLC
8015 15th AVE NW, Suite 3
Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 789-0200
seattlemiller.com

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