

**Tracy, Mary**

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**From:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 12:29 PM  
**To:** Tracy, Mary  
**Subject:** FW: Comments to APR 28 Proposed Changes

For you ☺

Supreme Court Clerk's Office

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**From:** LAURA GENOVES [mailto:lauragenoves@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 12:29 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Comments to APR 28 Proposed Changes

Dear Justices:

When the Civil Legal Needs study came out in 2003, it prompted the Supreme Court to order that the state find a way to bridge the access to justice gap. Through the hard work of many, the LLLT program was created. As a current LLLT candidate, I am excited to be a pioneer in the access to justice arena, and provide much needed professional legal services to fellow Washingtonians. I also see LLLTs as helping relieve an already overburdened court system by guiding those who are pro se through a complicated process.

Although my comments will not be as eloquent as Professor Price, they will reflect the crux of what LLLTs are; and what we do. We explain complex legal matters in straightforward terms.

As practicing LLLTs we will need the ability to write letters to our clients, and perhaps to other people associated with our clients, to obtain documents (once the clients have given us permission, of course). We also need the ability to complete pleadings to finalize a client's dissolution with a reasonable method to deal with real property issues. It is not difficult to use parcel viewer and get a legal description of a property, but it would be a challenge to expect us to instruct each and every client to do so because our own hands are tied. The whole point

becoming a legal professional is to assist clients with common family law issues, such as dissolution, and if a client with real property has to manage that part of the form on his/her own, LLLTs are not filling the justice gap.

Additionally, once pleadings are completed for a client, it makes sense for an LLLT to sign off on the documents to assure professionalism and responsibility. However, having a section of the pleadings left with a phrase to the effect that "we advised a client to seek an attorney, they didn't, and the LLLT is not responsible" makes me feel uncomfortable. I would have no idea what I client would add to the pleadings once I sign off on them, which is why I would plan to efile or send the pleadings to the court directly on behalf of the client.

I realize as the newest form of legal professional in the state (and the country) that there will be kinks to work out, but I firmly support the idea that in order for this new profession to flourish, there needs to be a workable business model which allows the LLLT to seamlessly provide legal services while still practicing within the current scope.

Best regards,

**Laura K. Genoves**

LLLT Candidate 2016 | Legal Intern, Moderate Means Program

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