

Tracy, Mary

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 8:08 AM
To: Tracy, Mary
Subject: FW: Proposed Amendment to RPC 7.3

From: Paul J. Grass [mailto:paul@sullivanpllc.com]
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 5:03 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed Amendment to RPC 7.3

April 26, 2019
Sent via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Chief Justice Fairhurst
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929
supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: Proposed Amendment to RPC 7.3

Dear Madam or Sir,

I write in opposition to the amendment to RPC 7.3 that would permit in person direct solicitation.

I have not practiced law for very long, however, in my short career, I have worked for law offices in four different states, namely Washington, Arizona, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. I ran my own practice for approximately a year before joining my current firm. As a sole practitioner starting my own firm only three months out of law school, I took cases in many different areas, just so I could pay my bills.

That said, the idea of permitting direct solicitation is offensive to the legal profession. Young lawyers like myself often have plenty of time, for want of clients. In the early days of my practice, I had the time to sit outside the jail or the courthouse to poach clients from the public defender. If the laws would have allowed it, as the change here would, I could have wait by hospital exits to prey on hurt people who needed the court system to make them whole. I had the time to camp out and directly solicit for clients. Doing so would have felt sleazy and rightfully so. Because it is.

I urge our court to deny the proposed amendment to RPC 7.3.

Yours very truly,

/s/ Paul J. Grass

Paul J. Grass, Esq./ WSBA# 47887

Paul J. Grass, Esq.

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