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Washington State
Supreme Court

August 14, 2020

Justices of the Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Mandatory Malpractice Insurance

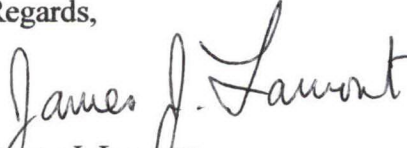
Dear Justices:

I read in the latest Bar News that the issue of mandatory malpractice insurance is being considered by the Court again. I presume you've all read the same article. The poll numbers in the article make it clear the members of the Bar Association are not in favor of the imposition of mandatory malpractice insurance.

I am now close to completing my fifty-first year of practicing law. Starting out I spent seven and one-half years in the criminal division of the King County Prosecuting Attorneys Office. Since then I've always been in private practice as a sole practitioner. In 2004 I closed my office in Bellevue and moved to Port Angeles for a quieter life style. I think of myself as being closer to full retirement than semi-retirement. For the last many years I've limited my practice almost exclusively to estate planning and probates. I typically do one or two probates and maybe a half dozen wills, etc. per year. Most of my work is for relatives, friends and a few referrals; I don't advertise or belong to any referral service. Before taking enough CLE classes to renew my license each of the last three times, I promised myself and told everyone else I was really going to retire. That's a promise I haven't been able to keep; I guess I enjoy what I do. I work from home and my fees are probably only 1/4 to 1/2 what any local attorney charges; I'm not in it for the money. For example, I just did a little work for a good friend's parents and only charged \$100 for about \$500 of work.

I'm sort of rambling on but I wanted you to know where I'm coming from. I am totally opposed to the imposition of any form of a mandatory malpractice insurance requirement. If it's becomes a requirement, I'll turn in my license; it simply won't be worth the cost to me. A lot of the people I've helped for the last many years will find it significantly more costly to hire an attorney, if they can afford it at all.

Regards,


James J. Lamont
WSBA #958

