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Subject: FW: proposed rule change objection
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From: Ascher & Denton, PLLC [mailto:ascherdent@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:02 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
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Dear Supreme Court Honorable Justices and staff,

I am writing in opposition to the rule change proposed with no input from stakeholders in the drafting of it. Family law attorneys should have input, including DRAW and the family law section of the bar. Requiring family law attorneys to withdraw 90 days instead of 30 days before trial or be stuck for three months of unpaid services is unwise.

Clients who have few funds and not enough time to process the difficulties of divorce/family law litigation or motivation to settle their cases will lose their attorneys. Many family law attorneys will withdraw, pro forma, three months before trial and sometimes come back on board just before the trial if the client scrapes up enough money to pay for legal services. Clients need that penultimate two months to gather funds for trial representation and understand their case and the imminent threat of trial.

This rule would likely result in more pro se parties, fewer settlements, more trials, and some hapless lawyers forced into servitude for three months. Please do not pass this rule. Please start this rule-making process over. Please consult lawyers practicing family law before proposing rules that drastically affect our clients and our law practices.

Melissa Denton
Attorney at Law

|
2401 Bristol Court SW #A-101
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 357-8669
ascherdenton.com