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Subject: FW: I oppose the proposed changes to lawyer discipline
Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:18:28 PM

From: SaraEllen Hutchison [mailto:info@seattlefaircredit.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 4:18 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: I oppose the proposed changes to lawyer discipline

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I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to lawyer discipline rules.

The new rules would not improve the quality and safety of legal services to the public.

In fact, they would reduce access to justice by unfairly impacting small firms, minority- and women-owned firms, and lawyers serving in high-conflict areas like family law and criminal defense.

Many of these clients in high-conflict areas of the law desperately need competent legal help despite presenting with personal, medical and mental health challenges that complicate their legal issues.

Such clients can be challenging for even the best lawyers to serve.

The risk of meritless complaints from such clients actually going somewhere under these new rules is going to drive great lawyers out of these practice areas.

Even though such clients and cases can be difficult, they are still humans in our community who deserve access to justice.

We will see solos, small firm lawyers, women lawyers and minority lawyers leaving the practice because of unfounded complaints.

We will see lawyers opting to change practice areas to reduce the risk of complaints.

The Bar Association already has a system for making sure the lawyers who should be disciplined, are. It works just fine.

These changes would be more expensive than the current system, and would be less likely to result in

fair administration of discipline.

Thank you for considering my comments.

SaraEllen Hutchison

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