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Subject: FW: Public comments re CR 71 and Attorney Discipline
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From: Valerie Staley [mailto:vvstaley@staleylegal.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:46 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Public comments re CR 71 and Attorney Discipline

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Dear Justices,

I am writing to oppose the proposed amendments to CR 71 and the Rules for Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct.

I am a solo practitioner and my practice is mainly family law. I am also a member of the DRAW list serve and would have to agree with many of the comments regarding how the rule change would require changes in the way I would have to represent my clients. Many have commented about the need to raise initial retainers and trial retainers. Many have also commented that they will only file limited notices of appearance and/or withdraw 120 days before trial. I agree with both of these positions. I cannot afford to be stuck on a case that, despite my best efforts to settle, will go to trial and my client will not be able to pay me. There are many reasons that the rule change will negatively impact a family law practitioner and their clients which I am sure others have or will present to you and more eloquently but I believe this rule change will result in less representation in family law matters and less attorneys who want to practice in this area.

Regarding the proposed changes to the ELCs, I also agree that any rule changes that will expedite the process for attorney discipline without giving the accused attorney minimal due process needs to be more fully considered with more input.

Thank you,

Valerie V. Staley
Attorney at Law

102 5th St. NE
Auburn, WA 98002
Ph. 253.288.0488 Fax 253.887.7853
vvstaley@staleylegal.com

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