



Low Bono Section

Low Bono Section of the Washington State Bar Association

September 7, 2021

Clerk of the Supreme Court
PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

supreme@courts.wa.gov

Re: GR 40 – Informal Domestic Relations Trial (IDRT) Public Comment

Dear Supreme Court Justices,

The Low Bono Section Executive Committee (LBS ExCom) has unanimously endorsed the following comments regarding the proposed GR 40 and requested that I forward these comments on behalf of the LBS ExCom to you via email.

The LBS ExCom supports the proposed IDRT rule. An informal process should be available to family law litigants, especially because so many litigants are unable to afford legal representation.

The LBS ExCom also suggests the following changes to the proposed rule:

1. Add language that third party sworn statements are admissible as trial exhibits.
2. Clarify the rule that if an informal trial is converted to a regular trial with 30 days of the trial date, the court SHALL continue the trial at least 30 days to allow for trial preparation, unless all parties agree to a shorter time period for a continuance. It is likely that one or both parties will require the additional time to prepare for a formal trial, particularly if both parties are pro se.

The LBS ExCom hopes the rule will be approved and quickly implemented.

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Ortega".

Jennifer Ortega, Chair of the WSBA Low Bono Section

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: WSBA Low Bono Section Comment on Ppd GR 40
Date: Monday, September 27, 2021 10:08:01 AM
Attachments: [GR 40 Comments.pdf](#)

From: Jennifer Ortega [mailto:jennifer@ltdivision.com]
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2021 10:03 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: WSBA Low Bono Section Comment on Ppd GR 40

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Dear Supreme Court Justices,

Attached please find the WSBA Low Bono Section's letter regarding the proposed GR 40. Thank you.

Jennifer Ortega, **LLT** | Legal Technician Division, PLLC

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For current clients, we offer online scheduling with Jennifer ([click here](#)) or Sarah ([click here](#)).

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Upcoming Unavailability & Office Closure Dates

Oct 11 | Court Holiday

Nov 11-12 | Veteran's Day Holiday & Office Closure

Nov 24-26 | Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec 22 - Jan 9 | Office Holiday Closure

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