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Subject: FW: Save the LLLT program
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From: Betha Gutsche [mailto:bgutsche22@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:41 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Save the LLLT program

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Dear Members of the Washington State Supreme Court,

I am writing to urge you to preserve *and expand* the Limited Legal License Technician (LLLT) program in Washington State.

We know that the civil legal needs of many people, especially low-income and people of color, are not being met. One comprehensive [national study](#)* conducted by the non-profit Legal Services Corporation indicates that at least “**86%** of the civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans in the past year [2017] received **inadequate or no legal help**.” The study did not include the millions of Americans who do not qualify as low-income but are still not able to afford expensive lawyer services.

One major factor contributing to the unmet needs is that there just are **not enough legal aid attorneys** to help everyone. The LLLT program specifically addresses this problem. The economic and emotional stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated issues relating to unemployment, debt/money issues, foreclosures and evictions, or family issues. Now is the time to *increase access to civil legal justice*, not constrain it.

Please reconsider your evaluation of the LLLT program.

Kind regards,
Betha Gutsche

*The LSC study refers to the [2015 Washington State Supreme Court study](#) as a “point of departure” for their work.

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