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To: <u>Linford, Tera</u>
Subject: FW: LLLT program

Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:41:35 AM

From: Doyle,Brooke [mailto:doyleb@oclc.org]

Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:36 AM

To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK < SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>

Subject: 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 <u>national study</u>* 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, Brooke Doyle

*The LSC study refers to the <u>2015 Washington State Supreme Court study</u> as a "point of departure" for their work.

Brooke Doyle

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