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Subject: FW: LLLT PROGRAM -PLEASE READ!
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From: Candy Sanders [mailto:candy@familylawtech.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 12:56 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: LLLT PROGRAM -PLEASE READ!

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Honorable Justices of the
Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

I began my legal career in January of 1975. Of almost 50 years of service - almost 40 of those years has been exclusively in family law. I feel like I have earned a place in the discussion.

I wish you could spend a day with me and answer my phone and hear my clients speak. It is not unusual to get a call from someone that has purchased documents from the clerk's office, looked them over and become even more overwhelmed. These are real people with real problems and no where to turn.

Many of my clients have agreed to issues and simply cannot figure out how to navigate the system to complete the process. Many of my clients cannot afford an office conference with an attorney, let alone hire them.

The state spends millions of dollars funding "legal aid." I have volunteered at legal aid clinics. The money would be better spent supporting LLLT's. When a client walks into a legal aid clinic and dumps their life on the desk - there is no possible way to help them understand what to do in 30 minutes. The free legal aid looks good on paper and everyone can pat themselves on the back for "helping" - but I believe it is public dollars very poorly spent when an LLLT is willing to take on the case and help them from beginning to end and work with them on fees or even pro bono.

Instead of kicking the program to the curb - let's collaborate with legal aid offices and actually provide services that can really help someone. Even the NW Justice Project, which does provide helpful services, is not walking through an entire case with a client. They provide brief assistance in the courtroom; or in an office conference; and they provide a very user friendly website.

I have been the only legal technician in Cowlitz County (there is some help from Clark County now); and am the only LLLT practicing in Lewis County (where there is NO legal aid offices; NO NW Justice Project); and I should be retiring - but the need is so great. With the death sentence you are giving the LLLT program - the need will become greater and greater with no relief.

As other states are developing their own programs; Washington will implement a program again at some point. Starting over will be much more costly than using the investment already made to attract more and more people to the program, which will guarantee its success. Instead of being the first state to create such a great option for people - we will have the sad history of starting, quitting, and then trying to re-boot a program - all while people go without help.

Please think about the smaller counties with much less resources and what they need. Please go back to the reasons the law was passed in the first place. Please set politics and complaining attorneys that don't think we can do our job properly to the side and give us a voice to consider in your decision making.

Please consider and help the public that you serve. Until a better idea comes along for affordable legal services - why would you be supportive of the ineffective (but very expensive) legal aid system and not supportive of services that actually help people complete their case?

Please talk to us in person; hear our stories; hear "our side" before hearing only from the attorneys that were against us before we got started. If the only reason for trying to erase us is the money it took to develop the program - then we need to take a hard look at how funds are used for other programs and what the net benefit is.

There should be a conversation about the best way to use all the programs that are state and privately funded in the name of providing "access to justice" and collaborate in common sense ways to help real people with real problems in the most efficient way possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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