

**EZ Documents LLLT Services**

718 Griffin Avenue #282

Enumclaw, WA 98022

Dear Justices,

I have sent a previous plea to request for the decision to sunset the LLLT program to be turned over and am commenting on the action to amend the rules as a result of the rushed decision to sunset the program.

Previously I was going to the colleges to talk to students interested in the LLLT program. This last year, I had to reach out to those students to connect them with other LLLT's to work toward meeting the requirements before the program was sunset. It was devastating for so many to put the time and money in only to learn they had a very slim window to qualify to become a LLLT.

I cannot stress enough the lack of support that has been provided to LLLT's as a whole. The financing has never been resolved to open the program to more candidates. The bar association has done little to educate the courts, let alone the public. As I previously shared before Judge Whitener swore me in, she had to contact the bar association to learn about the program and its requirements.

When I requested materials to share with the colleges, I was told there wasn't any, so I created my own pulling information for the WSBA site.

Furthermore, it's only been since the sunseting of the program that changes are being made to make it a reasonable task to become a LLLT in the short amount of time frame that has been provided.

The United States and Washington state itself was hit HARD when COVID-19 came to our country. Everything stopped and suddenly thousands upon thousands were losing jobs and any way to support themselves financially. Children were ordered to school from home and medical care became difficult to obtain if you weren't fighting COVID-19.

This caused a surge in family court issues at the highest level I have ever experienced in the 12 years I have practiced in Family Law. This last year has been the most stressful year I have ever experienced between the sheer number of people needing assistance to the court's constant changes in operations and procedures.

If there was ever an access to justice issue before, it was significantly exacerbated when COVID-19 shut down the state. I am thankful I have the ability to practice as a LLLT providing assistance to clients through Tacoma Pro Bono for the last year while managing a heavy case load, in particular because King County Superior Court-the biggest court in Washington state-shut down for 3 months. This time should have been used to improve systems; however, it actually became more confusing and difficult for everyone.

Pierce continued to operate and held hearings without oral argument, which allowed LLLT's to significantly assist those with minimal funds in proceeding through court.

I not only provided nearly 100 hours in pro bono help. I provided assistance to several client with paid services and continue to do so now as the need continues to increase with the public being unable to pay for attorneys. I contract firms as a LLLT and work as a paralegal when clients can afford attorney representation. Just in the last month I have signed two new LLLT clients through the firm because they

Letter in support of reversing sunset of LLLT Program

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could not afford attorney representation. Many attorneys let go of their staff when COVID-19 hit and they have struggled and are burned out of family law, many choosing to go in a different direction-also very concerning.

I do not disagree that a client is best served having counsel, however, the fact of the matter is there are so many that can't afford attorney representation. I am filling that gap by offering LLLT services. By sunseting the LLLT program it only encourages people to look for help somewhere else and paralegals will continue to provide services that are not being supervised by attorneys. There is no telling what damage this could cause in an already difficult situation.

I am incredibly busy between working, volunteering, participating on the Tacoma CC board, connecting with LLLT's, running a business, all while being a mother-working with my child in his online schooling. I struggle every single day to get through the day due to my disabilities, but I am motivated to help others in the best way I know how.

This license has allowed me to not only provide pro bono services or services for a lesser cost than attorneys; it has allowed me to support my community outreach program, and to finally have the opportunity to buy a home as a single person, just not at the inflated rate they are selling.

It is incredulous to me that the Washington State Bar Association found it appropriate to give new attorney prospects licenses without having to take a bar exam, while in the interest in protecting the public, still requiring the LLLT candidates take a bar exam. This is a serious disregard in protecting the unsuspecting public by having new attorneys working in all areas without a proper bar exam. I know because I have trained 10 attorneys in the last 5 years in family law, what they learn at school does not give them the ability to function fully as an active attorney-they are oblivious to court procedures and requirements or understanding mandatory forms.

If there was ever a time this program was needed, it's now while domestic violence cases continue to rise requiring protection orders, divorces, and parenting plans to reduce or remove the chaos and support for those suffering. The court's current requirements are confusing for legal counsel with the constant changes let alone a pro se. King County continues to be backed up with cases from 2019 still pending in the courts waiting to go to trial while new cases are still flooding in at an alarming rate with a limited calendar.

If LLLT's were to complete their attorney hours in the area of law they are intending to practice, this alone would be the biggest impact on a LLLT's success. The LLLT program needs to be restructured and opened back up to meet the public need while the nation is in a financial crisis. The barrier to paying for classes, the attorney hours being focused and kept at the lesser number, educating the courts, facilitators (maybe even replacing them), colleges, and the public is what is needed to allow the LLLT program to succeed.

I do not believe the American Bar Association supports Washington sunseting the program as they are watching closely to see if this will be overturned. They recognize the need for a program such as this to be in place. I know this because I have met with them to discuss the need for paralegals and LLLT's in our communities. I implore you to return to the drawing board and find a new solution.

*Christine A. Camper*

Christine Camper

WSBA Limited License Legal Technician #129

4/20/2021

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on LLLT changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:04:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [21-04 Response to Comments for Sunset LLLT program.pdf](#)

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**From:** EZ Documents LLLT Services [mailto:ezdocuments.christine@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 7:19 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** Comments on LLLT changes

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Please see comments attached.

Respectfully,  
Christine Camper  
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