

Honorable Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929
Sent Via Email: supreme@courts.wa.gov

RE: Sunsetting of the LLLT license/Comments

Dear Honorable Justices:

My name is Connie Major. I am in the current Family Law III class at Whatcom College. I have submitted my application and plan to take the exam in July 2021, after completing and passing the current class.

I didn't learn about this program until Winter quarter at Edmonds College. As I planned to have something to show for my years of legal experience (2001-2019) (Paralegal Degree) I felt that this program was of value, and enrolled. I took all the core classes from 2019 to 2020 and started the practice area immediately after. During this "educational" time, I have had challenges, which were extreme, I will explain. I was an honor role student, Phi Theta Kappa-college honor roll from Edmonds all five quarters. In July 2019, my Grandmother passed. My Mother had been battling cancer the whole time I was taking courses. My diabetic daughter lost two babies due to miscarriages and was in a motor vehicle accident in December 2019. In February, she broke her leg and ankle and needed to stay with me for care. And then there's "Covid-19" which has had an effect on every aspect of everyone's lives, including employment, caring for children and elderly adults, school "zoom" classes, which, although wonderful, do not have the same atmosphere that live classes do, where you can ask questions and talk about the things, you're learning in the school environment. I am not telling you my personal issues during this time to feel sorry for me but to show you the resolve that not only I but MANY of the people currently in this program have. It's not to take money or work from attorneys, because most of the legal aspects they cover, we cannot, but it is because of the situations we have had in our lives or people we have seen go through a traumatic situation that they may have been served better by a LLLT.

I personally went through a very difficult divorce in 1984, I tell you this because it's public record and because it was a part of my application requirement. My husband, at the time, literally came to my work after he was served and pulled me over the counter at Jeno's in Stanwood, Washington to tell me that after he was done with me, no one would want me. There was violence I hid from my family because I was embarrassed and felt that maybe I could be a better wife. It was only when in a jealous rage he had me on the floor in the kitchen, one hand holding my hands above my head and the other fist raised above his head to punch me, and our crying baby (the diabetic) crawled off a platform bed and laid beside me and he wouldn't let me touch her, when I decided I couldn't let him hurt her or me anymore. I filed for divorce that following Monday. Again, I am not telling you this for pity for myself but for you to realize that most battered women, have no place to go and no one to turn to. They are the people that need assistance and definitely would not be able to afford an attorney.

It is because of my personal experience, seeing my cousin lose her children because her husband had more money, friends who just need a little help and people who live in fear that if they spend too much money to feed their family, they will be black and blue and hide behind closed doors for a week until the bruises fade. I am not in this program for the "money," I am in it for the good I know I can do. I am in it to help people who have no clue how to navigate the legal arena. I have been interested in the legal process since high school. After 9-11, I got laid off and with my severance, I went back to school at Lake Washington Technical college in Kirkland. The legal support professional certificate I was working

towards is no longer available. I started working for a personal injury attorney in Seattle. I worked at the Office of the Attorney General in Seattle. I have worked at law offices in Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, and Lynnwood in different areas of the law for wonderful attorneys, that I thank for their guidance and counsel. I have referred friends, family and people who just needed to talk to someone about their case to many of these attorneys and others. Attorneys are very intelligent people and I appreciate them, but this program won't take away from them and could add to their businesses, if they were open to it.

I am not sure where this license will take me. I hope that I will someday be known for being an advocate for many. I still have a few hurdles to get over before I will be licensed but, I have not let even the death of my Grandmother stop me. Why? Because she knew I could do it and I know she would be proud of the person I am becoming by the challenges I am not letting get in the way of my goal.

This is how important this program is to me and probably, if you asked, you would find other similar stories, as to the difficulty in completing this program since the court decided to sunset it. (I won't go into the reasons because all of the information given to the court on April 28, 2021 was very illuminating and I hope it will be appreciated and seriously considered.)

I have missed out on time with my family and friends because of the amount of time necessary to study and be successful. I am in the older age group. I turned 59 in March 2021. I didn't think I would be in school at this stage of my life, let alone fighting to keep the program I am in alive.

My purpose over the time of the "sunset order" has been not to oppose or be disrespectful, but to try to raise awareness to the public. I started the "Petition" at Change.org to get signatures primarily in Washington because of the sunset but was told that since this is a nationwide issue, other people besides Washingtonians could sign the petition. There are over 1900 signatures currently. Yes only 58 were personally signed petitions, but with Covid, even when I asked, it was not permitted to be on the property. Of the 1900 signatures, I have found only about 10 signatures were aliases and over 500 signatures, given the limits of the pandemic, were people in the state of Washington. Also, to note, the people, including myself, who did not put a city or state were defaulted to US, not helpful, and I am sorry. It was to raise awareness of a program that the public had little or no knowledge. It was to get something going to make sure we could bring to the court's attention that people need to be able to decide and tell the court what they want. Unauthorized Practice of Law is a problem that is happening, but the alternative is just as dire. It costs the court when pro se clients can't navigate the system. There are more than 247 people who were in the pipeline but when the sunset order happened, there was NO WAY they would be able to complete all the requirements in time, so they went on to complete the paralegal degree. The people in this program are good people, who want to help those who are less fortunate, speak a different language where no one is able to assist them, or who don't care about the money they make and just want to see families get through the process with some ounce of respect for each other. The Stanford Law article had more reasons in it than anything I've seen. It was well thought out and there is no way I, one person could say something more important than them.

But I had to try. I am not looking for sympathy because of my circumstances. I am looking for the Supreme Court of Washington to continue the initial promise of this program. I am looking to see JUSTICE for the people who don't have it because of their means. I am looking for the court to do the right thing, because that's what the Supreme Court is supposed to do.

I don't want to go over the 1500-word limit but, I have been learning a lot about the LLLT RPC's and the Attorney RPC's. Maybe the court needs to go back and look at those. Maybe the Justices need to remember what they came through to be where they are and who helped them get there. This program is needed. Please keep the LLLT Program.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Connie Major

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Please see the attached letter Regarding Sunsetting Comment Period
Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 3:05:41 PM
Attachments: [Supreme Court My Story-for your consideration 4-29-2021.pdf](#)

From: Connie Major [mailto:major.connie@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 3:04 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>; judy.vandervort@courts.wa.gov; Zeis, Lynda <Lynda.Zeis@courts.wa.gov>; Yu, Justice Mary <Mary.Yu@courts.wa.gov>
Cc: Marya Noyes <maryanoyes@gmail.com>; Christy Carpenter <christy@mylllt.com>
Subject: Please see the attached letter Regarding Sunsetting Comment Period

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Please take whatever action necessary to give the attached letter to the Court on my behalf. I had planned to personally bring it to Olympia from Marysville Washington, but will not be able to make it in time.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Connie Major