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Subject: FW: LLLT program
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From: Ted Mueser [mailto:TedMueser@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 2:13 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: LLLT program

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To the Court:

I have been a member of the WSBA since 1985. In my career I have worked in the private sector in family law, as a public defender, and for the Division of Child Support. I worked for over 20 years as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in child support. I still volunteer at a local family law clinic.

In my career, I saw the problems of poor people and working people every day. Most had little idea of how the civil legal system works, or how to find and follow procedures. Attorneys are very expensive, and the great majority of working and middle class people cannot afford a lawyer. Yet most people do not need legal representation so much as someone who can guide them through the legal process, and to review basic legal documents. The LLLT is an excellent way to address this need. In fact, it should be expanded beyond family law to other fields such as landlord/tenant, immigration, and elder care law. This would enhance the abilities of limited income people to use the legal system.

The LLLT program is rigorous and includes practical training. A graduate of the program is prepared to help people with their legal problems upon graduation. In contrast, law school teaches would-be lawyers very little about the actual practice of law, and the bar exam tests only basic understanding of the law. Lawyers gain their actual knowledge after practicing for years. A person doing an uncontested dissolution would be far better off with an LLLT than with a recent law school graduate and would save money as well.

I understand that private practice attorneys may see the LLLT program as taking business away from them. However, the demands of social and racial equity require that the Court act beyond the narrow interests of the private bar. I urge the Court to reconsider its decision to

sunset the LLLT program, and to instead expand the program, to benefit the citizens of Washington.

Mueser

Respectfully,

Theodor E.

WSBA 15845