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Subject: FW: Sunsetting LLLTs
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From: Ken Masters [mailto:ken@appeal-law.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 4:55 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Sunsetting LLLTs

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Dear Justice Johnson & Rules Committee Members:

It will come as no surprise to any of you that I oppose sunsetting the LLLT program. It has been painful to watch as other states and countries move ahead of us in expanding legal services for the perhaps 85% of people who can't afford a lawyer. Washington pioneered this effort. Your summary execution of the program at the behest of lawyers protecting their turf was a terrible mistake.

This Court should reconsider. It should at least give a better explanation than money. We have the money. And we cannot allow money to become an insurmountable barrier to providing badly needed legal services. No one understands the civil legal aid crisis better than you. No one sees the unjust consequences of the explosion of *pro se* litigants more clearly than you. Killing off this program in its infancy because lawyers don't like the competition sets the worst kind of precedent.

The monopoly must end. The anticompetitive conduct must end. LLLTs are providing valuable services across this state. This Court should *encourage* the expansion of legal services, not crush their hopes.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best,



Ken Masters
Founder



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