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To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: Protecting LLLT
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:13:53 AM

From: Marya Grathwohl [mailto:marya@earthhope.org]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:38 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Protecting LLLT

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Subject: Order No. 25700-A-1336 - IN THE MATTER OF THE SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO APR 4—EXAMINATIONS FOR ADMISSION; NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS; APR 5—RECOMMENDATION FOR ADMISSION; ORDER ADMITTING TO PRACTICE; PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP FEE; OATH OF ATTORNEY; RESIDENT AGENT; APR 25.1—RESTRICTIONS ON REINSTATEMENT; APR 25.2—REVERSAL OF CONVICTION; APR 25.3—ACTION ON SUPREME COURT DETERMINATION; APR 28 APPENDIX APR 28—REGULATIONS OF THE APR 28 LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIAN BOARD

I urgently and respectfully request you reverse the decision to sunset the Limited License Legal Technician license. According to Martindale-Nolo Research, the average cost of a dissolution with children in Washington State costs \$20,000 per side. Yet, DSHS reports the median income for a one-person household in Washington State equals \$50,844 per year. Given the already high cost of housing in our area, average households have little to no hope of affording traditional legal counsel.

LLTs are highly trained, skilled professionals with the ability to step into the justice gap between individuals in need of pro bono services and those able to afford legal counsel. In other words, most of the citizens in our state.

The fact remains the need for services is urgent. If the existing set of legal services available were adequately assisting the population, then the justice gap would not exist. Unfortunately, the Civil Needs Studies completed by the Washington Supreme Court in 2003 and 2015 present incontrovertible evidence of the need for additional legal resources.

People cannot wait for an additional legal assistance program to be built one day when someone, somewhere gets around to it. **People need help now!!** The Limited License Legal

Technician program took thousands of hours by many different committed legal minds to create. Yet, the Supreme Court of Washington threw all of it away in one afternoon without public comment or consent. If the LLLT program needs additional work, then Washington State should invest the work to fix the issues. This would be a far better use of state resources than scrapping the program in favor of an alternative program that does not exist.

Our current legal system is not cost effective. Clearly, the army of pro se litigants walking through the system without legal advice are not a paragon of judicial efficiency. I shudder to think how many taxpayer dollars are wasted due to inadequately prepared pro se litigants as they attempt to navigate the legal system. A system that is neither user friendly, nor welcoming to the inexperienced. To say nothing of cost to society of inadequately filed protection orders or parenting plans. What is the cost to the child of a parent that receives inadequate support from their ex-spouse? Under the current system, this person is expected to educate themselves on applicable law, negotiate the court system and effectively battle a represented party with inadequate childcare. Frankly, the proposition is absurd.

In a perfect world everyone would have access to an attorney. Unfortunately, that dream has not come to fruition, nor does it appear to be on the immediate horizon. Further, lack of access to justice is not just a problem for our state. Every state in the nation has the same problem and many are emulating Washington in the implementation of alternative legal licensing to fill the need. As these programs become more successful, the alternative legal licensing movement is continuing to pick up steam. Washington State was the first in the nation to implement this type of program. I urge you to remain on the right side of history.

Please reverse the decision to sunset the Limited License Legal Technician Program!

Very truly yours,
Marya Grathwohl