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To: <u>Linford, Tera</u>

Subject: FW: Limited Legal License program

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 1:04:47 PM

**From:** Bill Andersen [mailto:andersenwr@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:30 PM

To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK < SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>

**Subject:** Limited Legal License program

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## To members of the Washington Supreme Court:

I understand the court is reviewing its action sunsetting the LLLT program and is inviting public comment. The problem to which this program was addressed--inadequate legal services to many of our citizens-- is real and is increasing in importance. It has, in fact, been addressed by novel licensing arrangements in many other service professions. I would urge you to reconsider the sunsetting action you took last year and permit this experiment to continue its natural development and growth. In its maturity, it could make a tremendously important contribution to our resources for providing adequate legal service to the community--a goal all professionals must recognize as primary.

If I understand correctly, the program was terminated because there were not enough potential licensees willing to undertake its lengthy training program--and not enough interest in working in the limited areas the program covered--to permit the program to operate at a scale that was economically feasible. But if that is an accurate statement of the problems, the solutions would seem to be fine-tuning the educational requirements (which may be possible) and broadening the fields within which the program can operate (which certainly is possible).

Any novel program of this complexity will have settling in problems and adjustments of this kind are to be expected. Moreover, a premature termination invites a view that darker protectionism forces are at work.

I would urge you to breathe life back into the LLLT program and to make necessary changes to the program and its management which will nurture the fledgling plant, enable it to grow and blossom into the healthy program the people of the state need and deserve. As you know, major newspapers are already in support of this approach and the general public--properly informed--would welcome it.

Sincerely,

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