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I am a family law practitioner, and have had over 100 trials in my almost 40 years of practice. The last 5 trials have been by Zoom. Two were trials which required interpreters and lasted about 2 weeks each. Please continue to allow trials by Zoom. This has been an excellent resource for family law litigants!

The cost to have expert witnesses appear in trial, in the past, could be so much that a client had to borrow money to afford to have the expert come to testify. Now, with Zoom, the cost of “transporting” an expert witness to the courthouse is zero. I find it much easier to schedule expert witnesses, who can testify from the comfort of their office or home, and who don’t have to brave traffic and struggle to find parking.

Another positive aspect of Zoom trials is that family law litigants have the opportunity to hire experts from around the country. There is a small group of accountants in King County who work in the family law arena. But nationwide, there are hundreds more accountants who can review documents, prepare tracing exhibits and analyze tax issues. This opens up a much broader pool of experts and hopefully, encourages a more economically competitive market.

The ability to attend trial remotely is much appreciated by my clients who have been physically and emotionally abused by their spouse. They do not have to sit in the same room with the person, and they are able to be in a comfortable and secure setting when they testify.

While sometimes there are technology glitches, we have overcome those and been able to move forward with the trial. The King County Law Library offers litigants conference room space to participate in their trial, and has a laptop to loan a litigant who does not have his/her own computer. Judges have welcomed litigants to attend in person, if they request to do so.

I appreciate so much being able to present my client’s case remotely, using Zoom. (I am sure there are other software programs available to allow for remote trials, but King County is using Zoom, which works well.) King County Superior Court also implemented Sharefile, which is an excellent file sharing program. That, too, is a ‘game changer’. You don’t have to be a high end law firm to afford the file sharing program; the Court provides access for free. It allows us to present exhibits without ‘killing a tree’, and allows us to share all the exhibits with opposing counsel and our clients easily. A recent Zoom trial had almost 500 exhibits. Sharefile(and the Court) worked superbly to maneuver through these, with much faster speed than if we would have had to shuffle through notebooks.

As a frequent family law trial practitioner, I ask that you allow Zoom trials to continue. Those have

gone a long way to advance the cause of justice in family law cases.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

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