

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#)
Subject: FW: GR 23 - Comments on proposed amendments
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 8:13:16 AM

From: victoria.barr@comcast.net [mailto:victoria.barr@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2022 2:16 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: GR 23 - Comments on proposed amendments

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Dear Clerk,

Please forward to the Court these comments in favor of the proposed amendments to GR 23.

Allowing more professional guardians on the Certified Professional Guardian Board would bring to the Board a greater depth of understanding about what the work of a guardian entails. The guardian's role is complex. Having only a third of the Board able to share working knowledge of the role seems inadequate for establishing sound policies and, especially, for appropriately applying regulations.

Other professionals and communities involved with people under guardianship rarely have a broad and deep understanding of a guardian's work. I have found this true of ombuds, medical practitioners, federal agencies staff, staff at adult family homes and nursing homes, and even guardianship lawyers. My law practice has been exclusively guardianships for twenty years, yet my CPG clients still must sometimes educate me about their work. When I relate such newly acquired knowledge to my other CPG clients, I sometimes learn they were as unaware as I; that is how complicated their work is. Operating in a related sphere, or experiencing the effects of guardianship practices, is not enough to well understand and judge the work of a guardian. That makes it important to have CPGs better represented on the Board.

Most regulatory bodies for professions are comprised primarily of members of those professions. While the role of non-CPG stakeholders on the Board is important, having a smaller percentage of them should not unduly hamper their watchdog function or their representation of their communities' concerns. The value of those functions does not outweigh the value of having a higher percentage of professional guardians on the board that regulates their profession.

In opposing the proposed amendments, the Board points to applications, discipline, and lawyer-client meetings as instances that require privacy, yet those instances would be unaffected by adopting the proposed amendment. The amendment would, however, bring other Board issues before the public while still actively under discussion, rather than just when they are ready for a vote. The Board stresses its commitment to acting in the spirit of the Open Meetings Act. Adopting the proposed amendment to GR 23 would only codify, for this Board and its successors, the Board's laudatory statements about its commitment to openness and transparency.

Thank you,

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