

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LIMITED LICENSE LEGAL TECHNICIANS

The Washington State Bar Association's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice. In furtherance of these ideals, the Board of Governors and the profession have an obligation to take reasonable and effective measures to address the enormous unmet civil legal needs of the people in the state of Washington. More than 80% of the state's low-income households experience at least one consequential civil legal problem each year. The legal problems of low-income people are compounded by race, ethnicity, age, disability, immigration status, or status as a victim of domestic or sexual assault. And those in the working middle class lack resources to secure legal representation. These harsh realities persuade us there is a monumental crisis that requires a response.

For these reasons, the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association strongly supports the purpose of Admission and Practice Rule (APR) 28, the court rule enacted by the Washington Supreme Court to create the Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) license. The LLLT Board has done an exemplary job of implementing APR 28 and is now considering increasing the number of LLLT practice areas recognized in the rule. We support this effort and look forward to both expeditious implementation of the rule changes and expanded LLLT services becoming available to the public. So that LLLTs can better represent their clients, we also support the LLLT Board's exploration of possible rule changes to allow LLLTs to appear in court in a limited fashion and to allow LLLTs to negotiate on behalf of clients within appropriate limitations. We also very much appreciate the support and leadership demonstrated by the Washington Supreme Court.

The Board of Governors believes that in supporting the work of the LLLT Board, we not only advance APR 28 as intended by our Supreme Court but also honor the Washington State Bar Association's mission so that every member of our community, irrespective of financial resources or other social dynamics, has access to our courts and justice.

Unanimously adopted by the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors on September 29, 2016.

Paula C. Littlewood

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