

**PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle, WA 98101-2539  
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Members

**Stephen Crossland**  
Chairperson  
Cashmere

June 18, 2009

**Hon. Paul A. Bastine**  
Vice-Chairperson  
Spokane

Joel L. Robinson

██████████  
Seattle, WA ██████████

**Thomas Andrews**  
Seattle

RE: File No. 09-11 & 09-15; Unauthorized Practice of Law  
Complaint against Joel L. Robinson

**Margaret Bridewell**  
Walla Walla

Dear Mr. Robinson:

**Shamra Coy**  
Chewelah

**Brian J. Dano**  
Moses Lake

The Practice of Law Board was created by order of the Washington State Supreme Court, General Rule (GR) 25. The Board is charged with the investigation of allegations of unauthorized practice of law in Washington. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 2.48.180 states that a nonlawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to practice law constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Court rule GR 24 defines the practice of law. The unauthorized practice of law is a crime in Washington.

**Stephanie Delaney**  
Seattle

**Nancy C. Ivarinen**  
Burlington

**Cheryl D. Kringle**  
Seattle

**Howard H. Marshack**  
Vancouver

As you are aware, M ██████ C ██████ and M ██████ L ██████ have filed complaints against you and your business, J.R.'s Legal Services, alleging that you are engaging in the unauthorized practice of law by giving legal advice or counsel to others, selecting and drafting legal papers, and representing individuals in court.

**Daniel Pérez**  
Seattle

**Renée Shadel**  
Seattle

**Hon. Jane M. Smith**  
Nespelem

In King County Superior Court, defendant J ██████ S ██████ filed paperwork asking the court to allow him to appear pro se and to allow you to assist him at the expense of the Office of Public Defense. The paperwork, which included a proposed Order Granting Defendant's Motion To Proceed Pro Se And To Have J.R.'s Legal Services To Assist Him, was drafted under J.R.'s Legal Services' letterhead. On December 12, 2008, at Mr. S ██████'s omnibus hearing, you entered the courtroom, stood at the bar, and attempted to address the court. The presiding judge, J ██████ S ██████ denied Mr. S ██████'s motion.

**Administrator**  
Julie Shankland

**Investigative Attorney**  
Sandra Schilling

Mr. S [REDACTED] later filed a handwritten motion for reconsideration. The motion, which contains your distinctive handwriting, was denied at Mr. S [REDACTED]'s December 26, 2008 omnibus hearing. On December 29, 2008, Mr. S [REDACTED] filed a handwritten motion for Discretionary Review of Judge S [REDACTED]'s order with the Court of Appeals. In addition, you filed a letter with the Court of Appeals in Mr. S [REDACTED]'s matter alleging misconduct by the Superior Court. On February 4 and 5, 2008, during a motion hearing on behalf of Mr. S [REDACTED], you entered the court room, attempted to approach the bench, and spoke with and passed papers to Mr. S [REDACTED]. On February 11, 2008, during Mr. S [REDACTED]'s trial, you appeared in court and attempted to speak with Mr. S [REDACTED]. You also drafted for Mr. S [REDACTED], under J.R.'s Legal Services' letterhead, a Defendant Sentencing Recommendation asking the court to impose a sentence consecutive to Mr. S [REDACTED]'s two other cases.

You are not a lawyer. RCW 2.48.180(2)(a) states that a non-lawyer practicing law or holding himself out as entitled to do so constitutes the unauthorized practice of law. Washington Court Rule GR 24 states that the practice of law includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Giving advice or counsel to others as to their legal rights or the legal rights or responsibilities of others for fees or other consideration.
- (2) Selection, drafting, or completion of legal documents or agreements which affect the legal rights of an entity or person(s).
- (3) Representation of another entity or person(s) in a court, or in a formal administrative adjudicative proceeding or other formal dispute resolution process or in an administrative adjudicative proceeding in which legal pleadings are filed or a record is established as the basis for judicial review.
- (4) Negotiation of legal rights or responsibilities on behalf of another entity or person(s).

Your attempt to address the court on Mr. S [REDACTED]'s behalf at his omnibus hearing is the practice of law. Along with the proposed Order Granting Defendant's Motion To Proceed Pro Se And To Have J.R.'s Legal Services To Assist Him and the Defendant Sentencing Recommendation, both of which contain your company's letterhead, you acknowledged in an interview with the Board's investigator that you drafted the handwritten motion for reconsideration and the Court of Appeals petition. Selecting and drafting legal documents for clients, such as motions and petitions, is the practice of law. Your statement to the Board's investigator that you based your work on drafts given to you by Mr. S [REDACTED] is not credible. Mr. S [REDACTED]'s drafts, which you gave to the Board's investigator, are nearly indecipherable and do not contain a rough draft of the pleadings filed with the court. Also, the time you spent on Mr. S [REDACTED]'s case,

based on the \$3,500 bill you sent to the Office of Public Defense, is more time than reasonably needed for a scrivener to simply redraft several pleadings.

At this time, pursuant to GR 25(f)(4)(B), we request that you enter into a written agreement with this Board, to refrain from the following conduct:

- Holding yourself out as authorized to select, draft or complete legal documents or pleadings for others;
- Representing other entities or persons in a court or other formal adjudicative proceeding; and
- Any activity which is defined as the practice of law in GR 24.

The Practice of Law Board has also ordered to refer investigation of this matter back to the King County Prosecutor's Office. If you disagree with the Board's final action, you may seek review by filing a Notice of Petition for Review with the Washington Supreme Court. The Notice must be filed within 30 days of final Board action. You must serve the original Notice of Petition for Review on the Supreme Court Clerk and a copy on the Board. Your Notice must set out your name and address, the name and address of your counsel, if any, and a concise statement of the reason for your appeal. Your Petition must comply with the Rules of Appellate Procedure (RAP). For further information on Petitions for Review, please see GR 25(g).

Please sign and date your signature and have your signature witnessed by a person over the age of eighteen, who will also sign as the witness. The signed letter should be returned to the Board within 15 days.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Crossland". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Steve Crossland, Chair  
Practice of Law Board

JS:as

Enclosure: Agreement to Refrain

cc: M [REDACTED] C [REDACTED], D [REDACTED] S [REDACTED] (w/out enclosure)