

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

DEBRA L. STEPHENS
CHIEF JUSTICE
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
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June 5, 2020

Stephen R. Crossland, Chair
Limited License Legal Technician Board
1325 Fourth Ave., Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

Rajeev Majumdar, President
Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

Terra Nevitt, Interim Executive Director
Washington State Bar Association
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98101-2539

Re: Washington Supreme Court Votes to Sunset the Limited License Legal Technicians Program

Dear Mr. Crossland, Mr. Majumdar, and Ms. Nevitt:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Supreme Court to advise you that the court voted by majority Thursday, June 4, 2020, to sunset the Limited License Legal Technicians (LLLT) Program. The majority also rejected the LLLT Board's requested expansion of practice areas and proposed rule revisions.

The LLLT program was created in 2012 as an effort to respond to unmet legal needs of Washington residents who could not afford to hire a lawyer. Through this program, licensed legal technicians were able to provide narrow legal services to clients in certain family law matters. The program was an innovative attempt to increase access to legal services. However, after careful consideration of the overall costs of sustaining the program and the small number of interested individuals, a majority of the court determined that the LLLT program is not an effective way to meet these needs, and voted to sunset the program.

Current legal technicians in good standing may continue to be licensed and may continue to provide services. Individuals already in the pipeline as of June 4, 2020, who can complete all the requirements to be licensed as a LLLT by July 31, 2021, may do so. No new LLLTs will be admitted after that date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Stephens", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Debra L. Stephens, Chief Justice
Washington State Supreme Court