

PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD STATE OF WASHINGTON

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PRACTICE OF LAW BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 20, 2007

The Practice of Law Board met on Friday, April 20, 2007 in Seattle, Washington at the offices of the Washington State Bar Association. Those present were Steve Crossland, Chair, Hon. Paul Bastine, Vice Chair, Rita Bender, Meg Bridewell, Brian Dano, Jeanne Dawes, Stephanie Delaney, Nancy Ivarinen, Cheryl Kringle, Howard Marshack and Daniel Pérez. Kristal Wiitala, WSBA Board of Governors and David Estudillo, YLD Trustee, King County Division attended the public portion of the meeting. Sandra Schilling, Board Investigator and Julie Shankland, Board Administrator also attended.

LEGAL TECHNICIAN RULE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

FAMILY LAW SUBCOMMITTEE:

Rita Bender gave this report. This subcommittee initially divided into work groups based on the separate RCW Titles involved. The subcommittee has not decided that the issues are similar enough that all Titles should be discussed together. Subcommittees all agreed that it should be treated together. As an example, Ms. Bender cited that possible restrictions on Legal Technicians regarding Indian Children would be similar in dissolution and parentage actions.

This subcommittee has determined that Legal Technician should be allowed to perform tasks in the areas of non parental custody, parentage and dissolution. The subcommittee recommended limitations in each substantive area. The details of the recommendation are in the report attached at the end of these minutes. The subcommittee believes that an existing non profit agency is a good place for a pilot project in this area.

Hon. Bastine informed the Board that the legal services community is discussing using some of the court improvement funds to hire 2 lawyers in each of Lincoln and Spokane Counties to represent low income fathers or mothers in dissolutions. These lawyers would not go to court. Hon Bastine suggested that the Family Law subcommittee may want to find out more about this idea.

Ms. Dawes stated that many judges want the Courthouse Facilitators to observe court hearings so they can prepare the final documentation. Ms. Dawes believes Legal Technicians should also observe court hearings so they can draft pleadings for their clients.

Mr. Crossland stated that Justice Madsen raised this same issue a couple of years ago.

Ms. Bender stated that Legal Technicians, like any member of the public are free to observe court hearings. The Rule prevents them from participating in the court proceedings. Any changes to the rule are beyond the scope of the subcommittee work.

Hon. Bastine- stated that he believes that in some counties, some judges fax their decision to the courthouse facilitator and that person then drafts the pleadings.

Ms. Wiitala asked if the nonprofit agency would charge for the Legal Technicians' services.

Ms. Bender indicated that this and many other decisions have been left open for actual proposals.

Ms. Wiitala asked how a pilot project operated by a non profit agency could generate data that could be used to determine the financial feasibility of a Legal Technician in the private sector.

Ms. Bender agreed that this is one of the weaknesses of a pilot project in a non profit agency. She stated that the subcommittee discussed this issue and decided to recommend non profit agencies.

HOUSING LAW SUBCOMMITTEE:

Ms. Ivarinen gave a report. The subcommittee report is attached to the end of these minutes. Ms. Ivarinen stated that the subcommittee has had informal discussions of expanding the courthouse facilitator role to include landlord tenant law.

Ms. Dawes asked if the subcommittee was thinking about geographic area limitations.

Ms. Ivarinen responded that they are currently considering Skagit and Whatcom counties. The Court Administrators in these counties are willing to consider a pilot project in this area.

Ms. Bender suggested that the subcommittee carefully consider whether the data from an expanded Courthouse Facilitator program will answer the question of whether Legal Technicians can meet unmet legal needs and exist financially in the private sector. She also suggested that all committee members take an equally active role in the committee recommendations.

ELDER LAW SUBCOMMITTEE:

Ms. Dawes gave the elder law report. She stated that this subcommittee is considering a pilot similar to the LPO (Limited Practice Officer) model. Minutes from the subcommittee meetings are attached to these minutes.

Hon. Bastine asked if the subcommittee had looked at the quasi programs in other counties.

Ms. Dawes stated the subcommittee member Rich Furman was looking into this. At this time, the subcommittee is concerned that these programs might be giving complicated forms to people with no advice.

Ms. Wiitala asked if the POL Board receives a lot of complaints in this area. The Board did not recall complaints in this area.

IMMIGRATION LAW SUBCOMMITTEE:

Stephanie Delaney gave this report. She indicated that they now have enough subcommittee members to move forward. They have had 2 meetings. The first was to discuss the ground work and explain the subcommittee tasks. The second meeting was more substantive. Committee member Daniel Perez brought a chart of the forms. They decided to step back and find out what non lawyers are currently doing. They are also looking into the federal and state immigration assistant programs that already exist. The subcommittee plans to meet 2 more times before June POL Board meeting. Minutes/notes from the 2 meetings are attached.

JUNE PUBLIC HEARING

The POL Board will hold the first public hearing on the Legal Technician Pilot Project at 10 am on Friday June 1 at the Access to Justice Conference.

Ms. Dawes asked how many subcommittee members will be able to attend the hearing. She would like to have as many as possible. She believes the public will benefit from hearing from the committee members who are not POL Board members.

Ms. Delaney asked if we have the ability to film the hearing.

Ms. Wiitala stated that she believes the hearing should be recorded.

Motion: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to authorize the subcommittee co-chairs to invite members to attend the ATJ conference hearing. The POL Board will reimburse members for mileage and lunch, but not overnight accommodations.

The Board had a brief discussion about how to structure the public hearing. The current proposal is for each subcommittee to give a report and then open the floor for questions and discussion.

RPC 5.5

Mr. Crossland reported that he had received a response from his letter to Justice Johnson regarding the POL Board's concerns about vagueness in RPC 5.5. Justice Johnson invited the Board to provide a more detailed statement of the Board's concerns. The Board asked Ms. Shankland to talk to Mr. Welden and Mr. Ende about the impacts of this rule on ADR were discussed in the Discipline 2000 committees. Also, Ms. Shankland and Ms. Schilling were asked to try to locate lawyers from the community who are involved in this area of practice (multi state arbitration practices).

BOG MEETING REPORT

Mr. Crossland attended the last BOG meeting and made a short report to the POL Board.

POLB BUDGET

The Board reviewed the budget materials and discussed when the legal Technician Rule financial impacts would likely occur. The Board determined that the consultant fees would likely be in the 2007-8 budget year. Most other fees will likely be in subsequent years. Until the area of practice is determined, it is difficult for the Board to accurately estimate costs. Mr. Crossland will ask the consultant to submit a more detailed written bid proposal for inclusion in the 2007-8 budget materials.

BOB FORD MEMBER APPRECIATION

The ATJ Board decided that an award to Mr. Ford could not be presented at the ATJ Conference. The Board is considering what type of appreciation or celebration might be appropriate.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

The Board extended the date for applications to fill the open position to June 1, 2007.

MINUTES

Motion: A motion to approve the minutes for January, February and March, with noted corrections was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

ATTACHMENT 1

FAMILY LAW SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

LEGAL TECHNICIAN PILOT SCOPE DRAFT

1. **Permitted substantive areas of practice:** The legal technician should be allowed to practice in areas under RCW Title 26, including Non-Parental Custody, Dissolution, and Parentage.
2. **Restrictions on practice should include¹:**
 - Indian Child Welfare Act issues
 - Disestablishment or rescission of parenting acknowledgement;
 - Interstate custody—UCCJEA unless neither of the parents continue to reside in the state issuing the prior order;
 - Transfer of real estate;
 - Retirement benefits and Qualified Domestic Relations Orders; and
 - Division of business property.
 - Active service military respondents
 -
3. **Location of pilot:** The pilot project should be housed within an existing non-profit agency, such as the YMCA or other community organization.²

¹ The committee felt that restrictions on practice should not be based upon which sub title of the statute the practice is, but rather, upon whether there are some matters which could arise which require legal analysis which an attorney should do.

² The committee members saw the benefit of this approach including reduced costs which might appeal to a potential technician, particularly since the project might not continue after the term of the pilot study. The members also felt that the community whom we hope to serve, low income and working poor, might find the project more accessible if housed in a community services organization. We discussed the potential drawback that we could be criticized because the costs of running the project would not be comparable to a “stand alone” office. Members pointed out that we could develop information as to the cost of rental of office space in the retail market, cost of equipment, etc. One member suggested that some non-profits do sufficient accounting that they could attribute costs of office rent, phone, equipment usage to the pilot which they hosted. The members seemed to feel that the benefits of housing a pilot program in a community organization far outweighed the cost.

ATTACHMENT 2

ELDER LAW SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Elder Law Subcommittee Report

Meeting 1/26/2007

Initial meeting of the subcommittee members, and all were present:

Jeanne Dawes, POLB member, Co-Chair

Cheryl Kringle, POLB member, Co-Chair

Bobby "Buzz" Wheeler, Director of the Paralegal Program at Highline Community College

Norma Bayes, a Paralegal with extensive experience working with nonprofit and public organizations providing pro bono legal services

Richard L. Furman, Jr., an Attorney with Hertog & Coster, representing fiduciaries and beneficiaries in litigation and transactional aspects of guardianship, trust, and probate matters.

Committee members agreed to gather information and seek feedback concerning the unmet legal needs in this area, and to report back via telephone conference before our March 9, meeting.

Elder Law Subcommittee Report

March 2, 2007 Conference Call

Present: Jeanne Dawes, Cheryl Kringle, and Buzz Wheeler.

Members reported that they had been receiving feedback from a number of different sources, and were expecting contact with several more sources before the March 9 meeting. Patterns emerged about areas of unmet need as follows:

Document Preparation: Power of Attorneys (all types, general, limited, durable, health care), Advance Directives/Health Care Directives, and Simple Wills were referred to often).

Assistance with guardianship proceedings, both for minor children and adults.

Entitlement program assistance.

Consumer Protection – Fraud Recovery.

Elder Law Subcommittee Report

March 9, 2007 Meeting at the WSBA

All members were present. We documented contacts made and information gathered since our January 26. In addition to paralegals and attorneys working in the elder law area, members have made contact with the following entities:

- NJP
- Seattle University
- CLEAR
- Long-term Care Ombudsman for Kitsap County
- WA Region 5 Area Agency on Aging
- Long-term Care In-home Care Services DSHS Pierce/Kitsap Counties,
- Pro bono Coordinator for Kitsap County.
- Masonic Home Long-term Care Facility
- Judson Hall
- ,King County Guardian & Probate Facilitator Program
- Volunteer Legal Services King County Bar
- Seattle University Native American Estate Planning Institute
- AARP
- University of Washington, Assistant AG

We have also reviewed information from the following reports:

- White House Conference on Aging Report
- Conference of State Court Administrators Resolution 23 expanding types of legal assistance
- Clear Legal Hotline Study
- WA Legal Needs Study

There was unanimous agreement that the categories we saw emerging at our February meeting were reinforced by all of the contacts made and information gathered.

There was discussion about how to approach these different areas, and discussion about entitlement programs that already authorize non-lawyer

practice. There was agreement that legal technicians could work within larger institutions such as long-term care facilities and hospitals to provide limited legal services to those who are not able to leave those institutions to seek assistance elsewhere. We discussed concepts successfully used in the health care industry. Legal technicians could do initial screening and provide routine legal services, while the attorney provides more complete diagnostic services and complicated procedures. In the Medicaid area we discussed that the decision to apply for Medicaid affects one's legal rights, but that after the decision is made, the process of completing the application forms, etc., probably is not UPL. Social workers do this type of work routinely.

We also discussed that the disabled require many of the same types of services that the elderly do, and, in terms of guardianships, minor children should not be left out of the mix. Dawes reported comments from the Family Law Subcommittee that they would address non-parental custody issues, but Furman, pointed out that minor guardianship are procedures that are routinely required when non-parental custody is not appropriate. Furman commented that "Elder Care" may not be the best name to give these legal technicians because these services tend to cross over into other vulnerable populations, such as the disabled and children. In his firm they use the terms "fiduciaries" and "beneficiaries".

The Committee unanimously agreed that qualified legal technicians could provide competent and valuable services in these areas which would increase access to legal services among vulnerable populations, and that we should proceed to determine the scope of such practice. We decided to begin by focusing on the types of forms legal technicians should be authorized to select and prepare.

Furman mentioned that OAC is proposing significant changes to RCW 74.34 that would allow OAC to post standardized forms for petitioning the Court for Vulnerable Adult Protective Orders. We discussed whether legal technicians could appropriately provide services to complete these forms, and whether, once obtained, there would be need for someone to unwind the process, since the proposed amendment contemplates Orders for indefinite periods of time. Furman has a contact in OAC who is spearheading this effort and he will talk with her and report back at our next meeting.

We closed the meeting in agreement that we would all gathering forms to review at our next meeting, April 20, in the areas of estate planning, probate, guardianships RCW 74.34 Protective Orders and the Medicaid program forms and applications. We will continue to gather information and feedback from pertinent sources.

ATTACHMENT 3
HOUSING LAW SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

LEGAL TECHNICIAN PILOT PROJECT

NOTES ON SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
20 FEB 2007 (NPJ – BELLINGHAM)

In attendance: Nancy Ivarinen, Katie Berger, Meg Bridewell, N.F. Jackson, Wil Harlock
Regrets: Jane Smith.

Summary

It is the sub-committee's job to come up with a model to develop and implement Housing LTs' (HLTs), define their scope of practice, and then sell it to the POLB. It was suggested that, by limiting HLTs' duties to process only, such as is currently the case with Family Law Court Facilitators, it will be easier to gain support and acceptance for HLTs. The Family Law Court Facilitator program also provides a proven model for the HLT Pilot Project, which will mean a greater likelihood of success (not re-inventing the wheel). The goals include increasing access to justice, and decreasing unlicensed, unregulated, and often incompetent, practitioners in the Housing practice area.

Initial Discussion

In the initial subcommittee meeting (26 Jan 07 – after Orientation session), three main areas that HLTs could focus on were identified:

1. Residential Unlawful Detainer Actions - help pro se tenants with procedural defenses / look at sufficiency of Notices.
2. Eviction Notices & Service - help pro se landlords with paperwork / make sure jurisdictional prerequisites are met / then refer to attorneys practicing in the housing sector / it was suggested that HLTs could charge landlords a fee for preparing the Notices.
3. Small Claims Court - help both tenants and landlords prepare for Small Claims Court with issues such as deposit refunds, suing tenants for damages over the deposit amount, etc.

Today's discussion included:

Should HLTs limit their work to tenants issues?

This raises an access to justice issue. N.F.J. voiced concerns, echoed by others, that it is discriminatory to serve only one half of the equation, and that landlords should be served just as well as tenants. Not all landlords are rich and can afford attorney fees (e.g. family renting auxiliary apartment in home to help pay their mortgage; elderly person renting a room / apartment to earn money for day-to-day expenses, etc.)

Means test for clients?

It was decided that there can be no means test for the individuals that will be served by the pilot project. It raises an access to justice issue.
As a point of interest, N.F.J. reported that the breakdown for clients of CFs in Whatcom Co. shows only 30% are classed as indigent, while 7% are actually family law attorneys. The Whatcom Co. CF program averages approximately 3500 appointments / year.

Local Rule

Just as there are local rules mandating that pro se family law litigants must see a Court Facilitator to ensure their paperwork is in order before the hearing, the sub-committee could / should suggest that a local rule be enacted to mandate that pro se landlords and tenants must meet with an HLT to ensure that their paperwork is in order. At the least, the local rule should require that landlords and tenants receive information describing the legal process they are involved in, and be alerted to the options for help available to them, including HLTs. It would make good sense to become very familiar with the CF model / services, so that these can be adapted to the HLT pilot project

N.F.J. discussed the new Judicial Assistant positions, recently created at the Whatcom Co. Superior Court. Using checklists, the JAs review all paperwork coming before the judges for process completeness, but not for adequacy of issues or arguments. In landlord/tenant cases, JAs review the paperwork whether the litigants are pro se or have engaged attorneys. Among the administrative duties of these judge's aides is checking Unlawful Detainers for sufficiency of Notices. He mentioned that often tenants do not have any contact with the court until the hearing itself, and that petitioners often don't know what is going on. The idea is to weed out cases that are not complete enough to go to hearing.

Self-Help Information available now

N.I. circulated several documents which may be of use to HLTs, as well as to landlords and tenants, and could be used in the pilot project.

- Self-Help Evictions for Landlords – © publication by David W. Ridenour, Atty. for Clark County Law Library (updated Oct. 2006) – available at Skagit Law Library for \$35,
- Eviction and Your Defense – publication for tenants by NJP
- Substantive Defenses (in residential detainer actions) – table form document prepared by N.I. regarding various Notice scenarios, with analysis and authorities cited.

It was noted that there are already quite a few self-help and private services in the public domain:

- EvictaQuick www.evictaquick.com ,
- Other companies and individuals in various counties providing similar services, without benefit of an attorney's supervision (UPL?)

N.I. also circulated copies of the Street Law model, used to establish a student legal services program at Whatcom Community College. It was suggested that the sub-committee could adapt portions of this model for the pilot project.

Funding of Pilot Project

Funding is an issue that must be addressed. Appeal should be made to the POLB for assistance. Other funding sources need to be identified and approached. Also, fees realized during the course of the pilot project could help offset costs.

Revised Proposed Model for HLT Pilot Project (abbreviated)

Court House Facilitator (CF) Model

CF's fulfill an important role in making sure that pro se family law litigants are better informed about their situation and prepared for their legal process. CFs screen all pro se family law litigants before their hearings, but are not permitted to offer any legal opinions about what their clients should do. They deal solely with process requirements, and whether they have been met or not. Then the paperwork is screened again by a Commissioner to make sure everything has been completed properly, before sending it a judge for hearing. CFs do offer a valuable service by making sure that the required paperwork is adequately completed.

(Perhaps it should be suggested to the Family Law pilot project subcommittee that they consider transforming CFs into Family Law LTs?)

HLT Model

The HLT pilot project could perform in a similar way for pro se housing litigants. The difference is that HLTs would offer advice about the legal process that clients are involved in, within a proscribed framework / limited practice area. HLTs would act as more than facilitators, but less than attorneys. The pilot project will serve both pro se tenants and landlords. Certain requirements would apply to potential clients in order to access services (e.g. tenants would be required to be current in their rent, or have paid rent into Court). HLTs would contribute to an increased access to justice, and regulating such a group of paraprofessionals would help give some teeth to the UPL rules.

Forms & Local Rules

CFs have pattern forms for clients to use. A part of the HLT pilot project could include the development of pattern forms to help with housing issues legal processes. Some local jurisdictions already have some forms in this practice area, and these could be adapted for use in the pilot project. An instruction

package / process guide for pro se housing litigants should be developed, utilizing already existing information wherever possible.

In keeping with the CF model, a local rule should be enacted requiring mandatory screening of pro se litigants by an HLT before any hearing.

Administration / Supervision of HLTs

Ideally HLTs would be located with the county court system, under the Court Administrator, just as CFs are. With regard to HLTs helping pro se clients with Small Claims Court preparation, the possibility of locating HLTs with the Small Claims Court should be explored. Another possible location for HLTs would be in the county Law Libraries, depending on whether that is where pro se litigants already go to get housing information. Each county could decide for itself what the best location would be, depending on what the local culture is.

Types of Help Offered by HLTs

HLT's would offer three main types of help:

1. Unlawful Detainer - review sufficiency of Notices, suggest procedural defenses (nominal fees);
2. Eviction - help prepare Notices (could charge nominal fees for preparation, like CF), give advice regarding proper service of Notices;
3. Small Claims Court - help prepare pre-trial paperwork (for a fee), give advice on who should testify, give advice on what types of evidence are needed for the case and how to present it.

Like CFs, HLTs should charge fees for consultation, and possibly for the preparation of forms. The subcommittee must develop relationships with the courts, the legal community, other providers of legal services (pro bono or otherwise), etc. to inform them of the goals of the pilot project, and the services to be provided, as well as what the benefits are to the community.

Data Collection

The Pilot Project will develop a data collection system, in order to analyze important information about the project's clients. This will help the POLB make informed judgments about the success of the project, as well as the viability of the proposed LT program. Data analysis may also help in the development of other Pilot Projects, either in other geographic areas, or other limited practice areas.

Benefits

The benefits of having HLTs include:

- Would decrease the number of cases thrown out at hearing because of incomplete or incorrect paperwork (increases access to justice);
- Identifies substantive issues, as distinguished from procedural issues, which would be directed to an attorney.
- Reduces the amount of simple pro bono cases for attorneys, so they can concentrate on more complex cases.
- Many of the self-help and private services available do not offer competent advice.

By concentrating on process, it removes the problems concerning access to justice raised previously. HLTs could work with both pro se landlords and tenants, on both residential and commercial issues. It should also lead to less resistance from attorneys in the practice area. HLTs would be required to refer all substantive issues to practicing attorneys.

To Do

- Draft a guide describing legal process for a variety of scenarios for pro se housing litigants.
- Develop a training program for pilot project HLTs, so they will be able to deliver services efficiently and effectively.
- Develop Local Rule for requiring pro se litigants to meet with an HLT prior to hearings.
- Develop pattern forms for use by HLTs.
 - Requires thorough review of existing forms in various counties.
 - Look into devising a self-executing form re: Certification in eviction cases – if not in compliance, it is converted into an ordinary action (not priority) and a writ will be issued.
- Research CF program in Whatcom Co. for service models, fees, administration, etc. / and other local counties (?Skagit, Snohomish?).
- Make contact with Small Claims Court in Whatcom Co. to determine how HLTs could help pro se housing litigants, and to see whether possible to associate with SCC.
- Develop fee schedule for HLTs (within context of our proposed model).
- Develop a 'marketing' approach to make the legal community and potential clients aware of the services to be provided by the pilot project.
- Devise a program for recognition of pilot project HLT participants.
- Investigate whether some kind of malpractice coverage must be put into place for pilot project.

ATTACHMENT 4

- Funding of the pilot project must be addressed, as well as funding of HLTs generally.
 - Research federal, state & local government opportunities
 - Research legal community opportunities
 - Research grant opportunities
 - Research private sector opportunities

IMMIGRATION LAW SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting on April
12:30 to 1:30 PM
NWIRP Offices

Members in attendance: Daniel Perez, Stephanie Delaney, Hilary Hahn, Manuel Rios, Raymundo Olivas and Candelaria Murillo (by telephone)

1. Welcome and introductions
 - Daniel explained the overall process for the pilot project
 - Stephanie explained the proposed Legal Technician rule
2. Initial conversations about an immigration pilot project
 - Daniel noted that AILA and NWIRP should be involved at some point
 - There was some talk about whether the technicians should work in non-profit organizations.
 - Additional conversation about costs, noting that people are already making a living doing non-lawyer immigration practices, so the question of fiscal viability should not be an issue.
 - Daniel noted that he is not convinced that a legal technician can determine what relief is available. He thinks the client would need to go to an attorney to have the relief determined and then go to the legal technician for implementation.
 - Short discussion about ethical concerns related to fee sharing.
 - Brief talk about what other states are doing
 - Discussion about how to break immigration law into sections
3. Meeting wrapped up at 1:30 with a determination to meet again before the next POLB meeting.
have the relief determined and then go to the legal technician for implementation.
 - Short discussion about ethical concerns related to fee sharing.
 - Brief talk about what other states are doing
 - Discussion about how to break immigration law into sections
4. Meeting wrapped up at 1:30 with a determination to meet again before the next POLB meeting.

Immigration subcommittee
Meeting on April 18, 2007
12:30 to 1:30

Attending: Daniel Perez, Stephanie Delaney, Raymundo Olivares, Hilary Hahn

Starting point: Daniel began the meeting by handing out a chart of immigration forms so that we could review them to see what a legal technician might be able to fill out.

Stephanie wondered whether it might work to start with the law that currently exists to permit some immigration practice.

Raymundo suggested starting practically, with what non-lawyers are currently doing.

All expressed that training would be key to knowing whether a LT could do the tasks. All discussed the importance of high quality training. Daniel expressed that only NWIRP and AILA would be qualified to do such training. Stephanie noted that community colleges offer immigration law classes, but that they might not be adequate. She volunteered to bring some syllabi to the next meeting. Stephanie suggested they go forward assuming adequate training.

There was a discussion about what the LT would do beyond being a scribe/document preparer. Hilary noted that the simple fact that one would go to a document preparer indicated that the person had a belief that the document preparer had some additional qualifications and that the person expected to take advantage of that training.

Daniel noted that there were lots of dramatic things that could happen as a result of poor form filling. Any form might raise a red flag for removal/deportation.

There was a discussion of how difficult it is to keep up in immigration law, that the law is changing daily and it is challenging for a solo practitioner to keep up and for a non-lawyer to interpret the implications of the court decisions. All wondered whether it is possible that this area is too complex for LT practice.

Changing directions, the sub-committee talked about translating legal documents and expressed that this was legal already. Raymundo noted that the main goal of the subcommittee's actions are to provide better service to the public in a safe way.

The Subcommittee decided not to start with Daniel's chart since the discussion made it seem like LT's could not do any of the forms. The subcommittee decided to start instead with areas where practice is already occurring.

Hilary suggested asylum, adjustment of status and citizenship were the most frequent forms/actions. We could start there and discuss the pitfalls of each.

Next meeting:

Daniel will email the law that authorizes limited non-lawyer practice in immigration law.

Stephanie will get syllabi from immigration law classes.

Daniel will send email with dates. The sub-committee will try to meet 2 more times before the June meeting. One meeting will be 1 hour and the other 2 hours to get more in depth on the topics.

