

January 4 2011

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA**FILED**

JAN 04 2011

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Chief Justice Mike McGrath
Justice Brian Morris
Justice James C. Nelson
Justice Patricia O'Brian Cotter
Justice James A. Rice
Justice Mike Wheat
Justice Beth Baker
Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, Montana 59620-3003

Re: Limited Scope Representation Rules, AF 09-0688, AF 07-0157

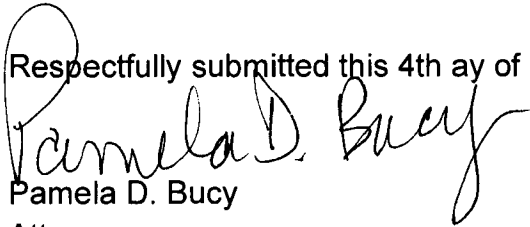
Montana Supreme Court Justices:

I am a member of the State Bar Access to Justice Committee and a board member of Montana Legal Services Association. I also served on this Court's Equal Justice Task Force for approximately seven years during which time a substantial legal needs study was conducted. The results of that study confirmed what most legal practitioners and certainly all social service providers already knew: many Montanans have significant unmet legal needs. In an effort to provide yet another tool to provide meaningful access to our courts, I write to ask this Court to support the rule changes proposed.

The Montana Rules of Professional Conduct currently permit limited scope representation (LSR). However, the current rules provide no guidance and result in too much risk for lawyers to actively seek or even accept LSR to enhance their practice. The intent of this rule is not to lower the quality of legal representation, but to increase access to legal representation. The proposed rules provide the necessary guidance to assist attorneys in ethically providing LSR.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Montana Supreme Court to adopt the proposed rules changes to the Rules of Civil Procedure and the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Respectfully submitted this 4th day of January, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pamela D. Bucy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Pamela D. Bucy
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