

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.

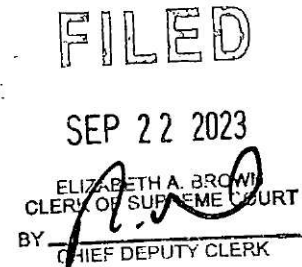


Dena Schmidt
Administrator

September 22, 2023

Via email to nvseclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov

Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada
c/o Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701-4702



RE: Written Comment in Support of ADKT 0611 – Adoption of Supreme Court Rule 49.5

Dear Honorable Members of the Supreme Court of Nevada,

My office serves as the federally designated Legal Assistance Developer for the State of Nevada pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 3058j. In this function I am charged with increasing state capacity for the provision of legal services to older adults, improving the quality and quantity of legal services for older adults, as well as engaging in activities to secure and maintain the rights of older adults.

Our agency currently provides funding for legal services to all of Nevada's legal services providers across the state. The demand for legal services for older adults and persons with disabilities continues to grow. However, all of Nevada's legal services providers have expressed significant challenges with the workforce pipeline to recruit, hire and retain lawyers.

Importantly, other states have similar rules that allow law graduates the opportunity to gain work experience, under supervision, while pending admission. For example, I am also licensed in Washington state (inactive) and had many classmates who elected this option for a variety of reasons including family and caregiving obligations or the birth of child. In addition to strengthening Nevada's workforce pipeline to legal aid organizations, I believe that adoption of this rule will also benefit first generation graduates, those from varying socio-economic backgrounds, or those with caregiving obligations who are pending admission to the profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Richards".

Jennifer M. Richards
Chief Rights Attorney and State Legal Assistance Developer

23-31165