



Simple • Affordable • Accountable • Justice for All

April 21, 2009

Mr. Rodney Low
Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs
The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Support of Limited Scope Representation

Dear Mr. Low:

As a national 50,000-member advocacy group working towards greater accessibility and accountability in the civil justice system, HALT would like to add its support to the State Bar of California's proposal to expand the use of limited scope representation.

Given the large number of people in California who cannot afford to hire a lawyer,¹ improving services for the unrepresented is essential for increasing access to justice. Attorneys who are willing to "unbundle" their services may help those who would otherwise be forced to go the *pro per* route to get the help they need to win their cases or handle specific legal matters on their own.

We applaud the Board of Governors' efforts to encourage its civil practice attorneys, law school clinics, attorney referral networks, professional liability insurance companies and courts to embrace limited scope representation and to do their part to ensure its success in California.

We also support stepped up efforts to educate legal consumers about limited scope representation because it will give them more options when they seek legal assistance and more opportunities to obtain affordable help when they need it.

Sincerely,

Roger Gordon

HALT Executive Director

¹ See, for example, *Action Plan for Justice*, The California Commission on Access to Justice, April 2007 which explains:

"The majority of Californians do not have the resources to obtain legal representation for the myriad legal problems affecting them every year, such as divorce, child support, child custody, domestic violence, loss of housing and employment, and discrimination."