

LAW OFFICES
OF
TARA J. SCOTT P.A.

"For Such a Time as This"

November 14, 2018

RE: Amendments to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration –
Parental Leave

Case #: SC18-1554

To Whom It May Concern:

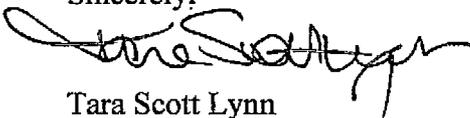
I am writing to comment on the proposed parental-leave continuance rule, Rule 2.570 as posted in the October 15, 2018 Florida Bar News. I would like to comment that I am strongly in favor of a rule supporting parental leave.

I would like to share my experience with pregnancy and child birth as a solo practitioner. I have been a solo practitioner since 2009 and had a child in 2016. I had a very difficult pregnancy, which caused me to ask for continuances, extension of deadlines, etc. I am blessed that the judges and attorneys in my circuit are very understanding and did what they could to accommodate my condition. However, I very distinctly remember an incident that occurred in a different circuit – I attended a hearing on a Thursday. The court requested I draft a document and submit it to him in five (5) days. I explained I was undergoing a cesarean section that weekend and would not be able to comply with the deadline. In response, I was given ten (10) days.

While I complied with the deadline, it was the last thing that should have been on my mind. I understand that, as a litigator and solo practitioner, we do not have the same ability as larger firms to take time off. However, we should be able to invest a reasonable amount of time when we have a child. Not only medically for the mother, but also to provide the child with crucial time with his/her parent(s).

It is my understanding that a large portion of the licensed attorneys in Florida are solo practitioners and/or small firms. It is imperative to provide us with a way to request time from the court when we expand our family. With this rule, it gives the request much more validity and requires the court to give the attorney reasonable time with the child; not ten days.

Sincerely,



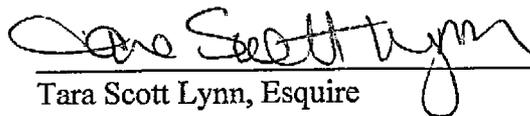
Tara Scott Lynn

cc: Eduardo Sanchez (Eduardo.i.sanchez@usdog.gov)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served on the Committee Chair Eduardo I. Sanchez, 99 NE 4th Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33132-2131, eduardo.i.sanchez@usdoj.gov, and on the Bar staff liaison to the committee, Krys Godwin, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300, kgodwin@floridabar.org, on this 14th day of November 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



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