

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the rule of law is fundamental to our democracy, and access to justice is the right of all Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, lawyers are necessary to represent the interests of all people in the justice system at every level; representation is crucial to ensure fairness and justice for all; small town and rural lawyers play an indispensable role in this system; and

WHEREAS, in Washington there are rural areas and counties with few lawyers in them, or no lawyers at all; and

WHEREAS, many residents of small towns and rural communities in Washington must travel significant distances to appear in court or meet with a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, many Washingtonians can access legal services online, but do not have sufficient broadband access in their area or would be better served by in-person service; and

WHEREAS, people in rural areas and small towns have important legal needs such as wills, family law matters, business needs, discrimination, domestic violence, or a criminal or other civil cases; and

WHEREAS, while about 20 percent of our nation's population lives in rural communities, only 2 percent of America's small law practices are located there in rural areas; and

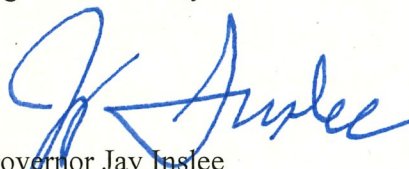
WHEREAS, increasing opportunities for and support of rural attorneys and the communities they service will increase access to justice across Washington state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November, 15, 2022, as

Rural and Small-Town Practice Day

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 3rd day of November, 2022


Governor Jay Inslee

