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Oregon Law Commission
Willamette University College of Law
245 Winter Street SE
Salem, OR 97301
Facsimile: 503.370.3158

Re: Uniform Collaborative Law Act

Dear Mr. Shetterly:

I write to urge the Oregon Law Commission's careful consideration of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) and to request your support and guidance for the UCLA, as good, conscientious people endeavor to have the Act become law with the goal of providing access to a thoughtful legal process.

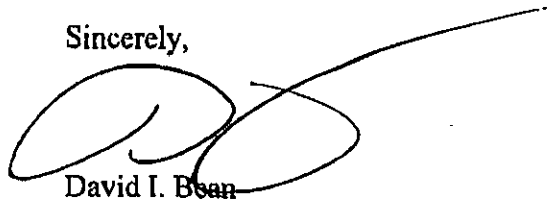
For the past fifteen years I have practiced family law in Oregon, first at Gevurtz Menashe Larson & Howe P.C. and now at Wyse Kadish LLP. I have maintained an active litigation practice and in recent years devoted more attention to appropriate dispute resolution. One form of appropriate dispute resolution is Collaborative Divorce. What sets it apart from traditional divorce is the parties' commitment to resolving their case without litigation. For some people, this is a great choice. It offers increased control, self-determination, and likelihood for positive transformation than traditional divorce, while not prohibiting folks from changing course and embracing a traditional divorce if the process does not lead to an out-of-court resolution.

Collaborative Divorce is catching on in Oregon and nationally. Many states have adopted the UCLA, and Oregon, in its traditionally progressive way, ought to as well. To do so would empower citizens to make choices about their future with greater predictability and consideration. It would give practitioners proper guidance and confidence to continue helping family members through what can be one of most challenging times of their lives.

Because the process is being utilized by numerous divorcing parties and their attorneys, clear direction on rules and procedures is just what the legislature ought to provide. Otherwise the process will continue but with less clarity and direction than warranted.

It goes without saying that support and guidance from the OLC will yield a better bill and greater likelihood its passing and success. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line and a loop.

David I. Bean

cc: Angela Laidlaw,
President of the Oregon Association of Collaborative Professionals

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