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I would like to thank President Keefe for devoting his attention to this issue and creating this Task Force. In so doing, he has recognized an area of greatly needed assistance to lawyers in our state. When thinking about the potential impact of the Task Force's recommendations, I am brought back to a traumatic time. In 2011, my husband, Peter N. Fiorentino Jr., Esq., who was a sole practitioner, went into cardiac arrest in a county courthouse. Four days later he died.

Handling his practice was just one of the challenges I suddenly faced. While there was support in many ways, two vital things that helped me in a practical way to move his client's interests forward at that troubling time were: 1) he had created a binder of passcodes and contacts and advised me of its existence and location; and 2) the county bar president offered services to assist me in handling his clients' immediate needs and in closing his practice. The Task Force is recommending these two safeguards become commonplace and offering additional supports to attorneys that encounter a similar tragic situation.

In addition, from a completely different perspective, I view the Task Force's work as imperative to me as a sole practitioner who is also a mother. Plans are likely to be made in advance of maternity leave, but providing checklists and other practical materials through an online portal will become a valuable tool for any attorney preparing for their temporary absence from the practice of law.