

From: Rich Robins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 5:00 PM
To: BoardofDirectors
Subject: Deunification / disintegration of the Texas Bar

Dear Texas Bar Board of Directors:

In response to the recent McDonald v. Longley / Sorrels panel ruling, why not deunify attorney discipline functions from potentially corrupting trade association ones? Trade association activities could instead become part of a voluntary membership association. Then the existing Texas Bar could focus entirely on attorney discipline, albeit subject to conflict of interest-reducing restrictions listed throughout our reforms proposals page here:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.texasbarsunset.com%2Freferrals&data=04%7C01%7Cboardofdirectors%40texasbar.com%7C89808fae7a204cc9462208d947dbf1b2%7Cece4a672274e48cfa4575e83671cbe8d%7C0%7C0%7C637619832249452275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=UAn4AtavVnvDrXTrz6xpquhvoQINNQOAWtrChHgZpHU%3D&reserved=0>

As an example, I mention that Virginia's mandatory membership state bar association creates very little CLE of its own, maybe around \$100,000 worth. Meanwhile despite having far fewer members than the Texas Bar and therefore less of an economy of scale, Virginia's annual bar dues is relatively comparable to that of the Texas Bar. Virginia's mandatory membership bar still offers an ethics helpline, and it apparently approves (or disapproves of) all CLE offerings presented for eligibility for Virginia attorney CLE credit.

I would be more than happy to further discuss the de-unification issue with any of you who is interested. I have been studying it for over a decade and I posted rather elaborate commentary about it to the Sunset Review Commission half a decade ago prior to testifying about it all three available times in Austin:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sunset.texas.gov%2Freviews-and-reports%2Fagencies%2Fcomments%2F1331&data=04%7C01%7Cboardofdirectors%40texasbar.com%7C89808fae7a204cc9462208d947dbf1b2%7Cece4a672274e48cfa4575e83671cbe8d%7C0%7C0%7C637619832249452275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6I1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sd=UAn4AtavVnvDrXTrz6xpquhvoQINNQOAWtrChHgZpHU%3D&reserved=0>

Hoping to hear from you,
Rich

(***Rich Robins is a Texas-based, bilingual litigator of contract disputes, statewide. Although he has never been publicly or privately sanctioned by any bar authority in any state or country, Rich finds the current Texas attorney disciplinary system to be counterproductively potentially hazardous for well-meaning attorneys, and also unnecessarily cost-increasing for honest clients. All of Rich's Sunset-related and Texas Bar-policing work is proudly done strictly as an unpaid volunteer. Meanwhile for more details about the need for legal reform here in Texas regarding lawyer / client relations: <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.texasbarsunset.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cboardofdirectors%40texasbar.com%7C89808fae7a204cc9462208d947dbf1b2%7Cece4a672274e48cfa4575e83671cbe8d%7C0%7C0%7C637619832249452275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=O3XLf2ULfAEJyPog6qy1xaY0elwxNPRduDD04nn9j0I%3D&reserved=0.>)

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Editor, <https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.texasbarsunset.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cboardofdirectors%40texasbar.com%7C89808fae7a204cc9462208d947dbf1b2%7Cece4a672274e48cfa4575e83671cbe8d%7C0%7C0%7C637619832249452275%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=O3XLf2ULfAEJyPog6qy1xaY0elwxNPRduDD04nn9j0I%3D&reserved=0>

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