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The Search for Real Property

My disappointment at the overly broad title for the lead articles in your latest issue was great (“Property in the 21st Century,” April, p. 202). The title should properly have read “Cultural (and/or perhaps) Intellectual Property in the 21st Century.” Unfortunately, neither of these subjects dealt with my current interests in the field.

Belinda A. Vrielink
Dallas

Referendum Reflections

For weeks I have followed Referendum 2011 and the recommendations of the Supreme Court and other attorneys. Although only 44 percent of those licensed and eligible attorneys chose to cast their vote, the Referendum was not approved, as well it should not have been. In this time of extreme recession and, at times, over 10 percent unemployment, why would the State Bar of Texas, the Supreme Court, and everyone else involved choose to spend their time revising the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct? Those involved might be out of touch with the reality of the working world that most of the rest of us live in. Attorneys are out there working harder than ever just to keep up, be ethical, and keep their practices alive. Others, such as myself, are unemployed and have been unemployed longterm. Where are the State Bar resources, time, and attention for that 10 percent of the

population that is unemployed? Where are the State Bar resources for the Texas lawyers who have paid their Bar dues for years, worked hard, and are trying desperately to be productive members of society? Our day-to-day existence involves being continually confronted with very few job opportunities, a market that is flat, and lack of support from my State Bar and perhaps our president. I applaud Mr. Tottenham’s efforts to support Texas veterans, but what about supporting the State Bar’s own members as well?

Monica L. McClure
Houston

After the barrage of e-mails and online seminars that have dominated my inbox over the past month, I just voted in the referendum on the new disciplinary rules. As someone with no vested interest in the new rules other than being governed by them, I have been gravely disappointed by my chosen profession. Far from a civil, mature, and informative discussion of the new rules, most missives contained conclusory expressions of doom, fantastical quibblings, *ad hominem* attacks, and conspiracy theories. While the overtly confrontational tone of the discourse did little to impart objective understanding of the ramifications of the new rules, it did lead me to the conclusion that Texas lawyers are no longer capable nor deserving of self-governance.

Paul A. Wehrmann
Dallas

Watch those Acronyms

Jordan Furlong’s article (“Our Changing Profession: So What Happens Next?” February, p. 110) was perceptive, but he should spell out his acronyms on first use. LPO can refer to the London Philharmonic Orchestra and AFA can refer to the Argentine Futbol Association.

Clydia J. Cuykendall
Olympia, Wash.

Dangers of Document Review

Document review has traditionally been performed by recent graduates and experienced lawyers “in-between” jobs (“Facing Challenging Economic Times Head On,” February, p. 138). I see document review becoming a permanent career path for many lawyers. Recent graduates need to know that document review is not the practice of law. It is often dull, tedious, and repetitive. It is strictly administrative and does not involve the research, analysis, or drafting of any documents. While the allure of an immediate job paying \$25–\$30 an hour may seem attractive to an unemployed lawyer, the longer an attorney stays in this field, the more difficult it will become to leave simply because the lawyer is not acquiring any practical experience. With more firms outsourcing and downsizing, recent graduates and students contemplating law school should consider the possibility that this field may be in their future.

Eyleen S. Hawkins
Houston

Saying It with Style

I just finished reading John Browning’s very entertaining article (“Saying It with Style,” February, p. 152) and was compelled to write an email to thank its author for the wide grin and occasional guffaw. I really enjoyed his wit and depth of research!

Heather Kubiak
Houston

I would love to see the *Texas Bar Journal* include John Browning’s “Legally Speaking” articles as a regular feature. I enjoyed his article in your current issue. It gave me a lot of laughs. God knows we all need more laughs. His articles could fill the void of Judge Buchmeyer’s much-missed humorous contributions.

Susan L. Battelstein
Houston