

# **Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda**

## **April 18, 2019, Meeting Supplement**

- Additional Public Comment Received on Proposed Rule 6.05, Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct



**AUSTIN BAR ASSOCIATION**

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April 16, 2019

State Bar of Texas  
Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda  
Texas Law Center  
1414 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
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Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am a writing regarding the proposed rule changes regarding Rule 6.05 Conflict of Interest Exceptions for Nonprofit and Limited Pro Bono Legal Services.

The Austin Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee considered the proposed changes during a duly noticed committee meeting on April 15, 2019 and voted unanimously to support their adoption.

One of the main reasons for convening the Austin Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee is that the need for legal services in underserved communities is so great. Legal aid organizations can only do so much alone, they depend on the private attorneys that make up the majority of bar association members. Rigid conflict rules can create a barrier to entry for some private attorneys interested in rendering pro bono legal services. Proposed Rule 6.05 works to remove one of those barriers. It is also a model rule that has been adopted nationwide. We are aware of no reason it would not work well in Texas.

For those reasons, the Austin Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee recommends that the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda approve the proposed rule change.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me on my direct line at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Austin Kaplan  
Chairperson, Austin Bar Association Pro Bono Committee

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