



The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE
WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

201 West 14th Street Post Office Box 12248 Austin TX 78711
Telephone: 512/463-1312 Facsimile: 512/463-1365

JUSTICES
NATHAN L. HECHT
HARRIET O'NEILL
DALE WAINWRIGHT
SCOTT A. BRISTER
DAVID M. MEDINA
PAUL W. GREEN
PHIL JOHNSON
DON R. WILLETT

CLERK
BLAKE A. HAWTHORNE

GENERAL COUNSEL
ALICE McAFEE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
NADINE SCHNEIDER

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
OSLER McARTHUR

June 23, 2009

Via Hand Delivery

Mr. Harper Estes
President, Board of Directors
State Bar of Texas
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Roland Johnson
President Elect, Board of Directors
State Bar of Texas
1414 Colorado Street
Austin, Texas 78701

JUN 23 2009

EXECUTIVE DEPT-SBOT

Dear Mr. Estes and Mr. Johnson:

The Court would like to commend the members of the State Bar's Task Force on Insurance Disclosure for their thorough and thoughtful study of the issue of whether Texas lawyers should be required to disclose the existence or non-existence of professional liability insurance. Under the leadership of its Chair, David Beck, the task force tackled an important and controversial issue. And as you know, the task force voted 6-5 to recommend that no insurance disclosure be required. The Grievance Oversight Committee also looked into this issue and made a recommendation to the Court in its 2009 Report, which concluded that Texas attorneys should be required to disclose if they do not have a professional liability insurance policy with limits acceptable to the Bar.

It is my understanding that the State Bar Board of Directors did not approve a final recommendation on the task force report for the Court to consider. Due to the importance of this issue to the citizens of Texas and to the legal profession, and because a decision could effect every member of the Bar, the Court believes it is important to ensure the full participation of the State Bar Board of Directors in its decision-making process. Therefore, the Court asks the Board of Directors to review the task force report and make a final recommendation to the Court on these issues before February 2010. The Court will deliberate on this matter upon receiving the Bar's recommendation.

I look forward to getting the Board of Directors' recommendation on this issue. Please let me know if the Court can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wallace B. Jefferson".

Wallace B. Jefferson
Chief Justice