

#2016-009

NHWBA  
NEW HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S BAR  
ASSOCIATION

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March 5, 2018

NH Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules

Carolyn Koegler

VIA E-MAIL ONLY: [CKoegler@courts.state.nh.us](mailto:CKoegler@courts.state.nh.us)

Dear New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules:

The New Hampshire Women's Bar Association (NHWBA) is writing in support of the Ethics Committee's Proposed NH Rule 8.4(g), submitted to the NH Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Rules ("Advisory Committee"), on March 23, 2017, and to request that the proposed rule be placed on the agenda for a public hearing. NHWBA supports the adoption of the Ethics Committee's proposed rule, as well as the Ethics Committee's memorandum dated February 23, 2017. NHWBA intends to submit further public comments if a public hearing is scheduled.

The mission of the NHWBA is to promote and support the advancement and interests of women in the legal community through leadership, professional interaction, education and the exchange of ideas between our members and the community. Over the past twenty years, our organization has supported women attorneys of New Hampshire in developing practical skills through continuing legal education programs, networking with peers through organized events, addressing work/life balance issues through programs, and responding to the challenges that women face in succeeding in the legal profession.

One of those challenges remains discrimination and harassment in the practice of law. NHWBA believes that, as lawyers and officers of the court, we should maintain high standards of professional conduct that promote fairness and equality among members of the bar. The Ethics Committee's proposed rule 8.4(g) recognizes that discrimination and harassment have no place in the legal profession. The proposed rule is necessary to deter members of the bar from engaging in discrimination and harassment in the workplace and to allow the bar to address continuing discrimination and harassment. While NHWBA understands another proposed rule has been submitted to the Advisory Committee that would limit the scope of 8.4(g) to "clients only," NHWBA agrees with the Ethics Committee that such a rule would be ineffective. Regardless, the issues raised with the proposals of these rules are very important to our members; accordingly, NHWBA respectfully requests that the Advisory Committee place the Ethics

Committee's proposed rule on the agenda for a public hearing, so that our members have an opportunity to provide comments.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara M. Simard", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kara M. Simard  
President of the NHWBA

CC: Joshua Gordon, Esq. via e-mail  
Board of Directors of NHWBA