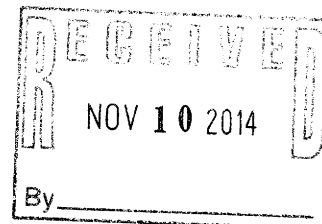


CHEATHAM, PALERMO & GARRETT
AN ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS



DENTY CHEATHAM
ROSE T. PALERMO

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 121857
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37212

DAVID W. GARRETT
JACOB T. THORINGTON

LEGAL ASSISTANTS:
JANE ANN WHEELER
PAMELA G. RICE

LEGAL ASSISTANT:
JACKIE DAWSON

OF COUNSEL:
ELIZABETH G. TANNENBAUM

November 7, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

RE: RULE 8, RPC 7.3
Docket No. ADM2014-01954

To the Honorable Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee:

We are writing to comment on the proposed changes with respect to Supreme Court Rule 8, RPC 7.3. The undersigned attorneys are in favor of the proposed amendment. We practice primarily in the field of domestic relations and, because of these solicitation letters being sent to defendants in newly filed cases, our clients have felt threatened and at risk of violence or retaliation before the statutory injunctions can attach through service of process.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Rose Palermo

Taylor Loring



Story Abernathy & Campbell

PLLP | AN ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS

Virginia Lee Story +
virginia@tnlaw.org

Joanie L. Abernathy
joanie@tnlaw.org

Neil Campbell +
neil@tnlaw.org

Kathryn L Yarbrough
kathryn@tnlaw.org

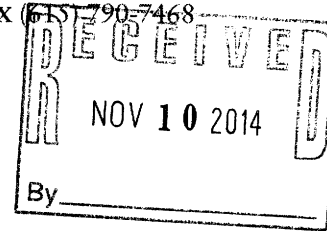
Of Counsel:
James E. Story,
Attorney at Law

**Licensed in Kentucky*

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
FRANKLIN LOCATION
136 Fourth Avenue South
Franklin, TN 37064

OFFICE (615) 790-1778

FAX (615) 790-7468



November 5, 2014

James Hiver, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue, North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1407

Re: Rule 8, RPC 7-3(b)(3); No. ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hiver:

This correspondence is being sent to you in full support of the above referenced bill as contained in your Order filed in this matter on October 9, 2014. We, the undersigned attorneys, spend the majority of our practice in family law, including divorce and legal separation, and we share in the concerns with regard to the lack of protection provided to our clients with regard to the potential solicitation of representation from counsel seeking employment from our respective clients' spouses. We further agree that providing clients with a minimum of thirty (30) days in which to prepare for the service of process of their various pleadings is not an unreasonable request, especially given the fact that often times these individuals are seeking relief from the Court as a result of physical and/or emotional abuse for themselves as well as, in many cases, their minor children.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this issue and please feel free to contact our office should you have any questions regarding this matter.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Virginia Lee Story, BPR #11700
Attorney at Law

Joanie Abernathy, BPR #11382
Attorney at Law

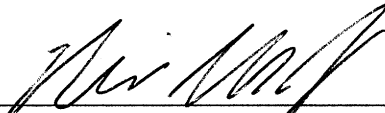
James Hiver, Clerk

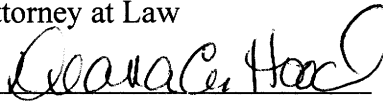
WESTHAVEN LOCATION

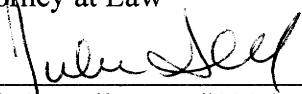
1031 Westhaven Blvd. Franklin, TN 37064 OFFICE (615) 794-3422 FAX (866) 794-3662

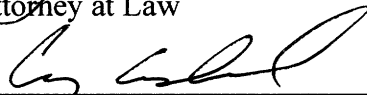
williamsoncountyattorneys.com

+ Rule 31 Family Law Mediator


Neil Campbell, BPR #26228
Attorney at Law

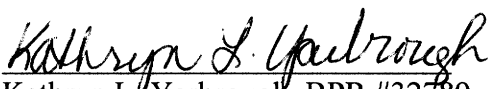

Deana Hood, BPR #18042
Attorney at Law

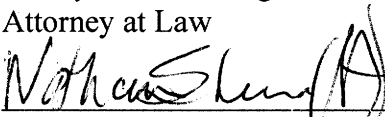

Julia Stovall, BPR #13067
Attorney at Law

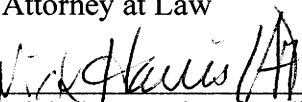

Casey Ashworth, BPR #29035
Attorney at Law


Steven Garner, BPR #25922
Attorney at Law


Sean Park, BPR #33051
Attorney at Law


Kathryn L. Yarbrough, BPR #32789
Attorney at Law


Nathan S. Luna, BPR #32230
Attorney at Law


Nicholas Harris, BPR #24471
Attorney at Law

CORLEY HENARD LYLE LEVY & LANGFORD PLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NANCY KRIDER CORLEY
BRANCH H. HENARD, III
MARY FRANCES LYLE
JEFFREY L. LEVY
MARY B. LANGFORD

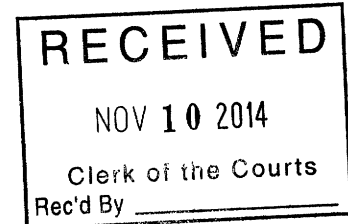
**401 CHURCH STREET, SUITE 2800
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219**

**TELEPHONE (615) 627-4677
TELECOPIER (615) 627-4765**

**Writer's email
levyjl@bellsouth.net**

November 10, 2014

Mr. James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: Proposed Amendment to Rule 8, RPC 7.3

Dear Mr. Hivner,

I am writing in support of the proposed Amendment to Rule 8, RPC7.3. I am a family law practitioner with more than seventeen years' experience. While I am heartened by the Tennessee Bar Association's public recognition of the problem that is addressed by the proposed Amendment, passing new legislation will be time-consuming and not necessarily successful. The problem is immediate. At the very least, the proposed Amendment (with one exception) should be approved and implemented pending actual achievement of an alternative solution.

A number of attorneys, notably in Davidson and Williamson Counties, are soliciting business from defendants in divorce and legal separation cases almost immediately upon the filing of the Complaint. Their letters to such defendants may, and often do, arrive before the Complaint is served upon the defendant. This situation can place the plaintiff, the parties' children, the parties' property and/or their financial accounts at severe risk. The potential problem exists in almost every single case.

The problem arises from necessary delays in the legal process itself. When a Complaint is filed, it is immediately entered upon the docket of the court involved. The statutory injunction pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 36-4-106(d) will, however, only take effect upon service of the Complaint on the defendant. If a Temporary Restraining Order is attached, which is also frequently necessary to protect the the plaintiff or the children, it will first be sent to the respective judge for review, approval and signature, before being returned to the filing party's attorney or the sheriff for service. The TRO, will also only take effect on service of the Complaint. Depending on the county, the form of service used and other factors, it can be a week or longer between filing of the Complaint and its service on the defendant.

During this process, the plaintiff and the children in particular are at great risk. The

advance warning given to the defendant by the attorneys' solicitation letters allows that defendant to take punitive action against them without any legal safeguards in place.

I would estimate that at least once per month I am confronted with a prospective client whose spouse has threatened to injure or even kill that person or their children, destroy their property or take all of their funds if the person takes any action to escape the marriage. There is also a risk, far more frequent, that a non-filing spouse will remove all funds from the parties' bank accounts upon learning that a Complaint has been filed but not yet served, since the statutory injunction and TRO are not yet effective. I have had many cases where the non-filing spouse electronically monitors the parties' bank accounts; upon receipt of the attorney's solicitation letter, the parties' joint funds may then "disappear."

It has been suggested that the solution is to obtain an order of protection prior to or simultaneously with the filing of the Complaint. This is, in fact, not a solution. Many magistrates or night court commissioners will not grant an ex parte order if there is not an actual history of physical abuse and violence. There is no defense against someone whose abuse has merely been emotional, or where the police have not been called in the past (typical of situations where one spouse has been subservient to the other in an attempt to preserve the marriage), or where the threat is to assets or monies rather than to the person.

It has also been suggested that there needs to be a balancing against the free-speech rights of attorneys and that the balance would fall in favor of the attorneys' Constitutional rights. I agree that there needs to be a balancing but strongly disagree that the balance falls in favor of the attorneys, so long as the Rule is properly drafted. A leading case with respect to regulation of commercial speech is Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation v. New York Public Service Commission, 447 U.S. 557, 65 L. Ed. 2d 341, 100 S.Ct. 2343 (1980). In fact, Hudson stands for several propositions:

1. Commercial speech, such as client solicitation, is protected by the First Amendment, as applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment, from unwarranted government regulation, but commercial speech is afforded a lesser protection than is other constitutionally guaranteed expression.
2. A four-part test should be applied to the regulation of commercial speech:
 1. The speech must concern lawful activity and not be misleading.
 2. There must be a substantial government interest in its regulation.
 3. The regulation must directly advance the government interest.
 4. The regulation must not be more extensive than is necessary.

Client solicitation is lawful and there is no reason to assume that the letters sent to prospective clients are misleading. There is a substantial government interest involved in the protection of the plaintiffs and their children from irreparable harm. Indeed, the risk of "asset stripping" and child kidnapping by a parent are recognized in the statutory injunction served with *every* Complaint for divorce and legal separation. The proposed Amendment does directly advance a significant government interest. The regulation is narrowly drawn, particularly if one change is made.

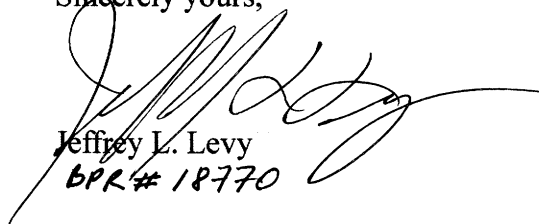
I would suggest that the delay for solicitation of a divorce or legal separation defendant not be thirty days, but rather that it run only until the Complaint itself is served upon the defendant. This is a narrower time limit in almost all cases, but it has certain advantages: the defendant's time to respond to the Complaint only starts to run upon service, so he/she is not prejudiced by a delay in learning of the Complaint; it provides sufficient time for a safety plan to be put in place and implemented; and when the Complaint has been served, the TRO (if applicable) and the statutory injunction will be immediately effective.

The Tennessee Bar Association has suggested that there may be other alternatives, such as a legislative amendment to the Public Records Act, that will accomplish the same goal. I would not disagree that such alternatives may exist. The problem is that it is unlikely that such alternatives, even after they are developed, could be implemented quickly, and that is assuming that every constituency that might be affected by a change in the law is brought on side. Indeed, I would anticipate objections to any broadening of exceptions to the Public Records Act. Passage of an appropriate statute is speculative at best and it will take many months, if not longer.

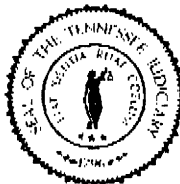
The legislative process is lengthy and complicated. If an appropriate statute is ultimately passed, and the Amendment is no longer needed, the Supreme Court can take further action. In anticipation of such a statute, the Amendment can be made contingent on its passage into law. In the meantime, however, the safety of the persons who most need protection, which include all married persons and their children, is very much at risk.

I urge the Supreme Court to implement the Amendment, delaying solicitation of divorce and legal separation clients at least until the service on the defendant of the Complaint, either pending the passage of appropriate legislation or permanently. It is the least we can do.

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey L. Levy
BPR # 18770

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**JOSEPH A. WOODRUFF
JUDGE, DIVISION IJAMES G. MARTIN III
JUDGE, DIVISION II**CIRCUIT JUDGES, TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
135 FOURTH AVENUE SOUTH • SUITE 204 & 206
WILLIAMSON COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER • FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064
(615) 425-4009 • FAX (615) 790-4424 • FAX (615) 790-5047MICHAEL W. BINKLEY
JUDGE, DIVISION IIITIMOTHY L. EASTER
JUDGE, DIVISION IV

November 10, 2014

VIA EMAIL jim.hivner@tncourts.gov**VIA FAX NO. 615.532.8757****VIA REGULAR U. S. Mail**Mr. James Hivner, Clerk
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3**RECEIVED BY FAX**
DATE: 11-10-14**Re: Proposed Change to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.3**
No. ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I write and speak on behalf of the Judges serving the 21st Judicial District in support of the proposed change to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.3. We firmly believe there should be an opportunity for service of process before defendants in domestic relations cases are notified of the filing of a Complaint.

All four judges serving this Court come from private practices. While our experiences in private practice vary, two of us were heavily involved with a domestic-relations practice. From our experience, both in private practice as well as with the court, we know the filing of a Complaint for Divorce can be an explosive occurrence, and in cases where domestic violence has already occurred, could result in further difficulties. To allow lawyers to solicit clients immediately upon the filing of a Complaint for Divorce without the client's knowledge that a Complaint has been filed creates a very real prospect of violent confrontation between spouses which can be avoided by allowing the filing party to take appropriate steps to seek shelter, orders of protection, and other relief which might be available to him or her as well as their children.

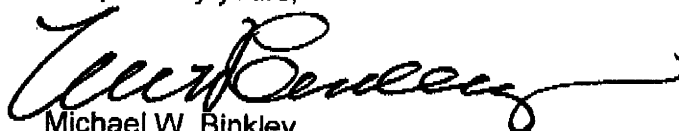
We believe the implementation of the proposed change to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.3 will do a great deal to alleviate these concerns.

Mr. James Hivner, Clerk
November 10, 2014
Page 2

The Judges of the 21st Judicial District would greatly appreciate your consideration of this proposed amendment to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7.3.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Binkley", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael W. Binkley
Presiding Judge

MWB/khc/dmr

LAW OFFICE

HAL HARDIN

211 UNION STREET, SUITE 200
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

(615) 369-3377
FAX: (615) 369-3344

November 7, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

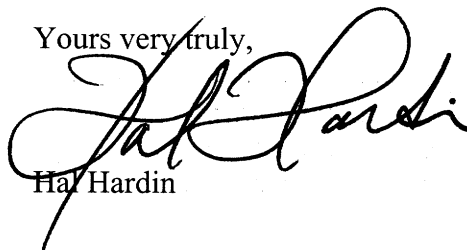
***Re: In Re Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3), Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court
No. ADM2014-01954***

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to Rule 8. I wish the rule could be extended to all areas of the law. I had one case recently where a spouse received a lawyer solicitation letter prior to being advised of or served with the divorce complaint. Even in a situation that does not include allegations of violence, a spouse's notification of divorce through a solicitation letter may unnecessarily create an environment of distrust and hostility. I agree that a thirty day prohibition against contacting the to-be-served spouse would allow for a more controlled presentation of a divorce or legal separation complaint. Even though I find all solicitation letters to be distasteful, the proposed rule would not be an unreasonable restriction on solicitation of potential clients.

In another case, a similar problem occurred when a young, successful businessman client got into a serious argument with his wife. Distraught and grieving, he aimlessly drove around (drinking, of course) until he saw a beautiful female waving at him on the side of the road. He stopped, foolishly complimented her and sought companionship to a local bar. She quoted a price. He agreed just for the company and he was arrested. I am convinced that he only wanted a talking companion. Regardless, his wife read one of the many lawyer solicitation letters and that was the end of a beautiful marriage and a thriving business.

Yours very truly,



Hal Hardin

HH/tw

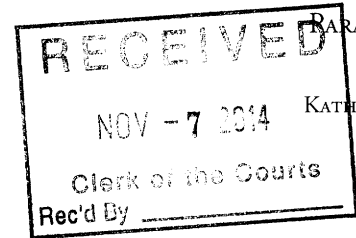
HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*†
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA†
KATIE MATHEWS ZIPPER
GEORGE D. SPANOS

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



*CERTIFIED
CIVIL TRIAL & PRETRIAL
PRACTICE SPECIALIST
†RULE 31
MEDIATOR

November 6, 2014
Via US Mail



PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
KATHLEEN MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN
LAURA BLUM

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Re: *Comment on Proposed Change to Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3)*

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am very grateful for the Court providing the bench and bar the opportunity to respond to the possible amendment to this rule to include divorce and legal separation. Since I wrote my original letter to the Court in January, 2014, I have continued to have problems, and can include with my letter a copy of one such solicitation that a client recently brought to me, and found very offensive.

As the current Chairperson for the Family Law Section Executive Committee of the Tennessee Bar Association, we had voted unanimously to petition the Court for this amendment, at, I believe our September, 2014 meeting. I am not certain at the time of writing what the official TBA position will be, but the Tennessee Association for Justice is fully supportive of this change, and will send their separate commentary. I thank you again for this opportunity, and hope that we can solve this problem, which I believe has been localized only to Davidson and Williamson Counties, but certainly could occur throughout the state.

When we file a divorce or legal separation, it is often helpful to the client to ask them to have a safety plan, or a plan after their spouse is served, and to give the spouse that is served with a divorce or legal separation action, time to regroup and get over the shock or the finality of what is about to occur in their life, since this is a major, life-changing action. The Court's allowing this thirty (30) day period is extremely helpful, especially in the area of domestic abuse, but also in areas where there has simply been a lot of verbal abuse, and conflict, or where a spouse might try to empty bank accounts before being served with the statutory restraining order. This change protects the children by allowing the parties to have a little breathing room to plan

MAIN OFFICE
The Wind in the Willows Mansion
2205 STATE STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-1850
(615) 320-0600 ∞ FAX (615) 320-9933
WWW.HELENROGERSLAW.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE
317 MAIN STREET SUITE 206
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064
(615) 807-1287

what they are going to do, and how they are going to break the news, as well as how they are going to serve each other.

I am very grateful that the Court is considering this matter, and look forward to your decision.

With best wishes, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Helen Sfikas Rogers

HSR: lsb
Enclosure



TENNESSEE BAR
ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT
Jonathan Steen
464 North Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Tennessee 38305
(731) 660-2332
FAX (731) 664-1109
Email: jsteen@rsslawfirm.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Bill Harbison
150 3rd Avenue South
Suite 1100
Nashville, Tennessee 37201
(615) 742-4200
FAX (615) 742-4539
Email: bharbison@sherrardroe.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Jason Long
900 S. Gay Street
Suite 2102
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
(865) 521-6527
FAX (865) 637-0540
Email: jhl@lyblaw.net

TREASURER
Sherie Edwards
P.O. Box 1065
Brentwood, Tennessee 37024
(615) 846-8205
FAX (615) 846-6070
Email: sheriee@svmic.com

SECRETARY
Jason Pannu
P.O. Box 198615
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-8615
(615) 259-1366
Fax: (615) 259-1389
Email: jpannu@lewisthomas.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Cynthia Richardson Wyrick

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Dan Berexa, Nashville
Tasha Blakney, Knoxville
Carl Carter, Memphis
David Clark, Clinton
Brian Faughnan, Memphis
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Hon. Creed McGinley, Savannah
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Andy Roskind, Knoxville
Michelle Sellers, Jackson
Sarah Sheppard, Knoxville
Gary Shockley, Nashville
Mary Dohner Smith, Nashville
Chris Varner, Chattanooga
David Veile, Franklin
Shelly Wilson, Knoxville

GENERAL COUNSEL
Paul Ney, Nashville

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Allan F. Ramsaur, Nashville
Email: aramsaur@tnbar.org

November 7, 2014

The Honorable James Hivner
Clerk, Tennessee Supreme Court
Supreme Court Building, Room 100
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219

IN RE: RULE 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3)
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT
No. ADM2014-01954

Dear James:

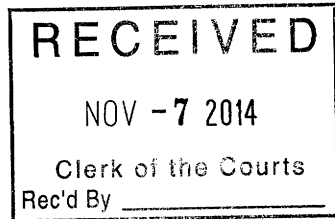
Attached please find an original and one copy of the Comment of the Tennessee Bar Association in reference to the above matter.

As always, thank you for your cooperation. I remain,

Very truly yours,

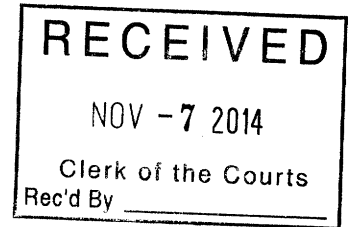
Allan F. Ramsaur
Executive Director

cc: Jonathan Steen, President, Tennessee Bar Association
Brian Faughnan, Chair, Tennessee Bar Association Standing Committee
on Ethics and Professional Responsibility
Paul Ney, General Counsel
Service List



Tennessee Bar Center
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-2198
(615) 383-7421 • (800) 899-6993
FAX (615) 297-8058
www.tba.org

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE**



**IN RE RULE 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3),
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT**

No ADM2014-01954

COMMENT OF THE TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION

The Tennessee Bar Association (“TBA”), acting through its President, Jonathan O. Steen; Chair, TBA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Brian S. Faughnan; General Counsel, Paul Ney; and Executive Director, Allan F. Ramsaur, in response to this Court’s Order entered October 9, 2014, submits the following comment in opposition to the possible amendment to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3) that has been proposed by a private-practice attorney.

The discussion of this petition within the TBA has led to a heightened awareness and a legislative proposal to address concerns about parties learning about the filing of divorce complaints before service of process. Although the TBA has no doubt that the private-practice attorney’s proposal is well-intentioned, the TBA urges this Court not to make the suggested revision to RPC 7.3(b)(3). There are, at least, two significant¹ problems with the proposal that prompt the TBA’s opposition. First, the proposal ignores that the existing prohibition on targeted, written solicitations in RPC 7.3(b)(3) exists for the purpose of, and can only be justified

¹ There are other technical deficiencies in the proposal such as: (1) its failure to include an additional needed reference to the proposed added types of lawsuits in connection with when the 30 days would run; and (2) the lack of any proposed revisions to the pertinent paragraph of the Comment. In light of the TBA’s position in opposition to the proposal on significant substantive grounds, the TBA will not belabor those drafting points.

on the basis of, protecting a person who would be the *recipient* of the solicitation rather than, as this proposal seeks to do, protecting some other person altogether -- here a person who has filed a lawsuit seeking divorce and is presumed to be in need of protection from the recipient of the solicitation letter. Second, the proposal would impose a restriction on commercial speech protected by the First Amendment. Such a restriction cannot be justified where, as here, it is neither narrowly drawn nor likely to be effective to accomplish providing the protection sought. This proposed amendment is not narrowly drawn because it would apply not just in cases where there was shown to be a risk of violence for example but to all divorce filings. And, while the amendment is proposed to provide the filing spouse with some protection against when the non-filing spouse learns of the filing, the filing of a divorce lawsuit would still be a public record and the non-filing spouse could still learn of the filing of the suit through a variety of other channels before service of process.²

It is well settled that lawyer advertising, like other commercial speech, is entitled to protection under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.³ See, e.g., Florida Bar v. Went For It, Inc., 515 U.S. 618 (1995); Shapero v. Ky. Bar Ass'n, 486 U.S. 466 (1988); Zauderer v. Office of Disciplinary Counsel, 471 U.S. 626 (1985); In re R.M.J., 455 U.S. 191 (1982); Bates v. State Bar, 433 U.S. 350 (1977). The thirty-day off-limits provision that

² As disturbing as the specter of domestic violence is in our society, unless this Court were to seek to take action that would change the nature of divorce lawsuits from being public records from the time a complaint is filed, then there is no reason to think that expanding the prohibition on written solicitations, as is proposed, would be an effective way of preventing the non-filing spouse from learning of the filing directly or indirectly because of routine publication in print and online media of new civil lawsuit filings.

³ The Tennessee Constitution generally affords at least as much as protection to speech as the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. See Tenn. Const. art. I, § 19; Leech v. American Booksellers Ass'n, 582 S.W.2d 738, 745 (Tenn. 1979). Although no decided Tennessee case addresses Tennessee constitutional protection for lawyer speech, the TBA assumes that this Court would find that the Tennessee Constitution provides such protection, and the TBA relies upon the Tennessee Constitution in support of its argument against the proposal.

currently exists in Tennessee's RPC 7.3 is patterned upon a restriction on lawyer advertising first used by the State of Florida and that was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in Went For It. A thorough understanding of the interest advanced by the Florida Bar and credited in Went For It to justify upholding such a restriction, as well as how the Court distinguished the thirty-day restriction on solicitations of injury victims and their families from other lawyer advertising restrictions that did not pass constitutional muster readily reveals the fundamental disconnect between the purpose of Tennessee's present RPC 7.3(b)(3) and what is intended by the proposal.

After completion of a two-year study on the effects of lawyer advertising upon public opinion, the Florida Bar enacted a number of additional restrictions on lawyer advertising including a provision that restricted lawyers from sending a written communication "to a prospective client for the purpose of obtaining professional employment if: (A) the written communication concerns an action for personal injury or wrongful death or otherwise relates to an accident or disaster involving the person to whom the communication is addressed or a relative of that person, unless the accident or disaster occurred more than 30 days prior to the mailing of the communication." Went For It, 515 U.S. at 620. In seeking to justify imposition of the restriction, the Florida Bar characterized the sending of direct mail solicitations to injury victims and their families in such close temporal proximity to a tragic event as being "universally regarded as deplorable and beneath common decency because of its intrusion upon the special vulnerability and private grief of victims or their families." Id. at 625. As will be elaborated upon more below, the Court gave much credit to this concept that the mere receipt of such a solicitation involved a substantial invasion of the privacy of victims and their families and distinguished other First Amendment precedent where the Court had previously concluded that

“a letter, like a printed advertisement (but unlike a lawyer), can readily be put in a drawer to be considered later, ignored, or discarded.” Shapero, 486 U.S. at 475-76.

Tennessee’s current RPC 7.3(b)(3) seeks to protect the *recipient* of a targeted, written solicitation from a lawyer under the premise that, unlike others for whom the simple act of throwing away an undesired written solicitation into the trash is sufficient to avoid injury, people within 30 days of a disaster or personal physical injury are subjected to a separate second injury from the invasion of their privacy. The proposed amendment does not just seek to expand the types of cases in which the 30-day off limit period to protect *recipients* is applied. In fact, it is not aimed at protecting any *recipient* of a written solicitation letter at all. Rather, its underlying rationale is the possibility that *others need to be protected from the recipient of such a letter*. In addition to Florida and Tennessee, there are 17 U.S. jurisdictions that have this kind of 30-day off limit provision housed in an RPC 7.3(b)(3) or its equivalent and not one such jurisdiction extends the prohibition on written solicitation to a letter to a person named as a defendant in a divorce lawsuit.

In part because this proposal turns the rationale for the thirty-day off limits period on its head, the proposed revision to Tennessee’s RPC 7.3(b)(3) is a restriction upon commercial speech that would be highly likely to run afoul of the First Amendment. In Went For It, the Court yet again confirmed that intermediate scrutiny is applied to constitutional challenges to lawyer advertising restrictions. This means that the proposal cannot be judged solely upon whether it might be “not unreasonable to ask that [a plaintiff in a divorce action] have at least thirty (30) days to decide how and when they are going to serve their, spouse with the divorce or legal separation complaint, and how they will protect themselves and their children, should there be a reaction or over-reaction to the filing.” Instead, if this proposal were to be adopted, the

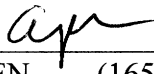
constitutional viability of this restriction on commercial speech would be scrutinized in terms of the three-pronged Central Hudson test in which: “first, the government must assert a substantial interest in support of its regulation; second, the government must demonstrate that the restriction on commercial speech directly and materially advanced that interest; and third, the regulation must be ‘narrowly drawn.’” Went For It, 515 U.S. at 624 (quoting Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. v. Public Service Comm’n, 447 U.S. 557, 564-65 (1980)).

Assuming that protecting victims of domestic abuse could be used as the substantial interest to support the regulation set out in the proposal and that sufficient evidentiary support could be gathered (over and above the anecdotal evidence the letter writer offers) to support a conclusion that the proposed change would be motivated by such evidence, there is no reason to think it could satisfy either, much less both, of the other two Central Hudson prongs. First, as long as the filing of divorce complaints continue to be a matter of public record, then there will be a multitude of ways that a person named as a defendant in such a public court filing could learn of the suit prior to being served and, thus, a multitude of ways in which someone prone to commit an act of violence or other illegal act could still find their way to doing so. Thus, restricting lawyers from being able to send a written solicitation letter to the defendant in a public lawsuit will not “directly and materially” advance any interest in protecting victims of domestic abuse. Second, the proposal is not at all “narrowly drawn” as it would apply not just to divorce complaints or complaints for legal separation where there has been an some showing of an actual concern that the defendant is likely to over-react to the filing or is somehow prone to violence, etc. Rather, it would apply to all instances of filings for divorce or legal separation.

CONCLUSION

The TBA is keenly aware of the problems of domestic violence and domestic abuse in our state and in society as a whole. Nevertheless, the TBA strongly urges the Court to decline to adopt the proposed revision to RPC 7.3 as it is not the solution to any of those problems and will only serve to restrict commercial speech in a way that the First Amendment will not condone.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ by permission 
JONATHAN O. STEEN (16519)
President, Tennessee Bar Association
Redding, Steen & Staton, PC
464 North Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, TN 38305
(731) 660-2332

By: /s/ by permission 
BRIAN S. FAUGHNAN (19379)
Chair, Tennessee Bar Association
Standing Committee on Ethics & Professional
Responsibility
LEWIS THOMASON
40 S. Main Street, 29th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103
(901) 577-6139

By: /s/ by permission 
PAUL NEY (011625)
General Counsel,
Tennessee Bar Association
Waddey & Patterson, P.C.
1600 Division Street, Suite 500
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 242-2400

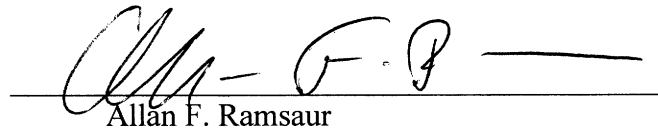
By:



ALLAN F. RAMSAUR (5764)
Executive Director,
Tennessee Bar Association
Tennessee Bar Center
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 400
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-2198
(615) 383-7421

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the individuals and organizations identified in Exhibit "A" by regular U.S. Mail, postage prepaid within seven (7) days of filing with the Court.



Allan F. Ramsaur

Dwight Aarons
President, National Bar Association,
William Henry Hastie Chapter
University of Tennessee College of Law
1505 Cumberland Avenue, Room 363
Knoxville, TN 37996-0681

Jamie Ballinger-Holden
East TN Lawyers Assoc. for Women Pres.
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell &
Berkowitz PC
265 Brookview Centre Way, Suite 600
Knoxville, TN 37919

Julian Bibb
TN Board of Law Examiners President
Stites & Harbison, PLLC
401 Commerce Street, Suite 900
Nashville, TN 37219

Bradford Box
TN Defense Lawyers Association President
Rainey, Kizer, Reviere & Bell, PLC
209 East Main Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Jade Dodds
National Bar Association, S.L. Hutchins
Chapter President
Miller & Martin PLLC
832 Georgia Avenue, Suite 1000
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Vinh Duong
Tennessee Asian Pacific American Bar
Association President
Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis LLP
511 Union Street, #2700
Nashville, TN 37210

Melanie Gober
Lawyers Association for Women Marion
Griffin Chapter Executive Director
Lawyers Assn for Women
P.O. Box 190583
Nashville, TN 37219

Martin Holmes
Federal Bar Association Nashville Chapter
President
Dickinson Wright, PLLC
424 Church Street, Suite 1401
Nashville, TN 37219

Suzanne Keith
Executive Director
Tennessee Association for Justice
1903 Division Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Ed Lancaster
Tennessee Commission on Continuing
Legal Education and Specialization Chair
TFIC
P.O. Box 998
Columbia, TN 38402

Imad Al-Deen Abdullah
National Bar Association, President
Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell &
Berkowitz
165 Madison Avenue, #2000
Memphis, TN 38103

Syd Beckman Beckman
Lincoln Memorial University Duncan
School of Law
601 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Doug Blaze
Dean
UT College Of Law
1505 W. Cumberland Avenue, Room 278
Knoxville, TN 37996

Dawn Deaner, Chair
TN Lawyers Fund for Client Protection
Metropolitan Public Defender's Office
404 James Robertson Parkway, #2022
Nashville, TN 37219

Joanna Douglass
Lawyers Association for Women President
Tennessee Department of Human Services
225 Martin Luther King Drive, #210
Jackson, TN 38301

Katharine Gardner
Federal Bar Association Chattanooga
Chapter President
103 Stratford Way
Signal Mountain, TN 37377-2520

Chris Guthrie
Dean
Vanderbilt University School of Law
131 21st Avenue South, Room 108
Nashville, TN 37203-1181

Eric Hudson
Federal Bar Association Memphis Chapter
President
Butler Snow LLP
6075 Poplar Avenue, Suite 500
Memphis, TN 38119

Jeff Kinsler
Dean
Belmont University College of Law
1900 Belmont Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37212

Peter Letsou
Dean, University of Memphis Cecil C.
Humphreys School of Law
1 North Front Street
Memphis, TN 38103

Laura Baker
Lawyers Association for Women Marion
Griffin Chapter President
Law Offices of John Day PC
5141 Virginia Way, Suite 270
Brentwood, TN 37027

Barri Bernstein
Executive Director
Tennessee Bar Foundation
618 Church Street, Suite 120
Nashville, TN 37219

Suanne Bone
Executive Director
TN Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers
530 Church Street, # 300
Nashville, TN 37219

Mark Dessauer
Federal Bar Association Northeast
Tennessee Chapter President
Hunter, Smith & Davis, LLP
P.O. Box 3740
Kingsport, TN 37664

Amanda Dunn
SETLAW President
Luther Anderson PLLP
P.O. Box 151
Chattanooga, TN 37401-0151

Sandy Garrett
Chief Counsel
The Board of Professional Responsibility
10 Cadillac Drive, Suite 220
Brentwood, TN 37027-5078

Lela Hollabaugh
Board of Professional Responsibility Chair
Bradley Arant
1600 Division Street, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37203

Tiffany Johnson
Tennessee Alliance for Black Lawyers
President
QP Legal Research & Writing Services
1067 Fleece Place
Memphis, TN 38104-5620

Karol Lahrman
Executive Director
Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women
P.O. Box 331214
Nashville, TN 37203

John Manson
National Bar Association, Napier-Looby
Chapter President
Special Master 8th Circuit Court
1 Public Square, 604 Metro Courthouse
Nashville, TN 37201

Judy McKissack
Executive Director
Tennessee Commission on Continuing
Legal Education
221 Fourth Avenue North, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37219

Sherry Percival
National Bar Association, Ballard Taylor
Chapter President
Percival Law Office, P.C.
219 N. Parkway, Suite 1
Jackson, TN 38305-2717

Ann Pruitt
Executive Director
Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services
1220 Vintage Place
Nashville, TN 37215

Frances Riley
Association for Women Attorneys
Immediate Past President
US Bankruptcy Court
327 Central Cove
Memphis, TN 38111

William Stover
Tennessee Alliance for Black Lawyers
Immediate Past President
W. Stover, Attorney at Law
500 Church Street, Suite 450
Nashville, TN 37219-2370

Colby Baddour
Giles County Bar Association President
A. Colbrook Baddour, Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 296
Pulaski, TN 38478-0296

Douglas Bates
Hickman County Bar Association President
Bates & Bates
P.O. Box 1
Centerville, TN 37033

Ben Boston
Lawrence County Bar Association
President
Boston, Holt, Sockwell & Durham PLLC
P.O. Box 357
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

Kirk Caraway
Memphis Bar Association President
Allen, Summers, Simpson, Lillie &
Gresham, PLLC
80 Monroe Avenue, Suite 650
Memphis, TN 38103-2466

Curt Collins
Greene County Bar Association President
C Collins Law Firm
128 S. Main Street, Suite 102
Greeneville, TN 37743-4922

Mary Morris
Federal Bar Association Mid-South Chapter
Vice President
Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC
130 North Court Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103

Samuel Perkins
Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense
Lawyers President
SL Perkins Law Group PLLC
156 Court Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103-2212

Mario Ramos
Tennessee Association of Spanish Speaking
Attorneys President
Mario Ramos PLLC
611 Commerce Street, Suite 3119
Nashville, TN 37203

Mike Spitzer
Tennessee Bar Foundation Chair
The Spitzer Firm
19 Cedar Street
Hohenwald, TN 38462

Mary Whitfield
Association for Women Attorneys President
Shea Moskovitz & McGhee
530 Oak Court Drive, Suite 355
Memphis, TN 38117-3733

Jeremy Ball
Jefferson County Bar Association President
Dist Atty OFC
P.O. Box 690
Dandridge, TN 37725

Mark Blakley
Scott County Bar Association President
Stansberry, Petroff, Marcum & Blakley PC
3 Courthouse Square
Huntsville, TN 37756-0240

Ted Burkhalter
Blount County Bar Association President
Burkhalter & Associates, PC
605 Smithview Drive
Maryville, TN 37803

William Cockett
Johnson County Bar Association President
Smith & Cockett Attorneys
247 West Main Street
Mountain City, TN 37683-0108

Daryl Colson
Overton County Bar Association President
Colson & Maxwell
808 North Church Street
Livingston, TN 38570-1134

Jon Peeler
Tennessee Association for Justice President
401 Church Street, L&C Tower, 29th Floor
Nashville, TN 37219

Lisa Perlen
Executive Director
Tennessee Board of Law Examiners
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219

Cheryl Rice
President
Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women
Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, P C
900 S. Gay Street, Suite 1400RIV
Knoxville, TN 37902

Gigi Woodruff
Nashville Bar Association Executive
Director
Nashville Bar Association
150 4th Avenue N., Suite 1050
Nashville, TN 37219

Bill Young
Administrative Offices of the Courts
Administrative Director
Administrative Office of the Courts
511 Union Street, #600
Nashville, TN 37219

Heidi Barcus
Knoxville Bar Association Immediate Past
President
London & Amburn, P.C.
607 Market Street, Suite 900
Knoxville, TN 37902

Tasha Blakney
Knoxville Bar Association President-Elect
Eldridge & Blakney PC
P.O. Box 398
Knoxville, TN 37901

Neil Campbell
Williamson County Bar Association
President
Neil Campbell Attorney at Law
136 4th Avenue S.
Franklin, TN 37064-2622

Paige Collins
Hamblen County Bar Association President
Terry, Terry and Stapleton Law Offices
P.O. Box 724
Morristown, TN 37815

Bratten Cook
DeKalb County Bar Association President
Bratten Hale Cook II
104 N. 3rd Street
Smithville, TN 37166

Chad Cox
Paris-Henry County Bar Association
President
Ainley, Hoover, Clark & Hoover
104 North Brewer Street
Paris, TN 38242-4006

Wade Davies
Knoxville Bar Association President
Ritchie, Dillard, Davies & Johnson PC
P.O. Box 1126
Knoxville, TN 37901

William Douglas
Lauderdale County Bar Association
President
William Dan Douglas, Jr
109 N. Main Street
Ripley, TN 38063-0489

Joseph Ford
Franklin County Bar Association President
McBee & Ford
17 S. College Street
Winchester, TN 37398

Shawn Fry
Putnam County Bar Association President
Qualls & Fry PLLC
165 E. Spring Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

Kristin Green
Bedford County Bar Association President
300 E. Lane Street
Shelbyville, TN 37162-0461

Lucas Hobbs
Bristol Bar Association President
Elliott Lawson Minor PC
110 Piedmont Avenue, Suite #300
Bristol, VA 24201

Nathan Hunt
Montgomery County Bar Association
President
Patton & Pittman
109 S. Third Street
Clarksville, TN 37040

Sarah Kennedy
McMinn-Meigs County Bar Association
President
Jerry N. Estes Law Offices, PLLC
296 W. Madison Avenue
Athens, TN 37303

William Lawson
Unicoi County Bar Association President
William B. Lawson, Attorney At Law
112 Gay Street, Suite A
Erwin, TN 37650-0016

Terri Crider
Gibson County Bar Association President
Flippin, Atkins & Crider PC
P.O. Box 160
Humboldt, TN 38343

Michael Davis
Morgan County Bar Association President
415 N. Kingston Street
Wartburg, TN 37887-0925

Hilary Duke
Dickson County Bar Association President
Reynolds, Potter, Ragan & Vandivort, PLC
210 East College Street
Dickson, TN 37055

Andrew Frazier
Benton County Bar Association President
Whitworth Law Firm
P.O. Box 208
Camden, TN 38320

James Gass
Sevier County Bar Association President
Ogle, Gass & Richardson PC
P.O. Box 5365
Sevierville, TN 37864

Paul Hatcher
Chattanooga Bar Association President-Elect
Duncan, Hatcher, Hixson & Fleenor PC
1418 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Jason Holly
Carter County Bar Association President
Holly & Holly Plc
415 Hudson Drive
Elizabethton, TN 37643-2881

Jay Ingram
Sumner County Bar Association President
Phillips & Ingram
117 E. Main Street
Gallatin, TN 37066

Katherine Kroeger
Anderson County Bar Association President
7th Judicial District Office of the Public
Defender
127 N. Main Street
Clinton, TN 37716-3607

Amber Lee
Washington County Bar Association
President
Lee Law Group, PLLC
300 E. Main Street, Suite 159
Johnson City, TN 37601

Creed Daniel
Grainger County Bar Association President
Daniel & Daniel
115 Marshall Avenue
Rutledge, TN 37861-0006

Jason Davis
Marshall County Bar Association President
Davis Law Firm
113 W. Commerce Street
Lewisburg, TN 37091

Matthew Edwards
Cumberland County Bar Association
President
Law Office of Matthew Edwards
69 E. First Street, Suite 203
Crossville, TN 38555-4575

Anne Fritz
Memphis Bar Association Executive
Director
Memphis Bar Association
145 Court Avenue, Suite 1
Memphis, TN 38103-2292

Charles Grant
Nashville Bar Association President
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &
Berkowitz PC
211 Commerce Street, Suite 800
Nashville, TN 37201-1817

James Haywood
Haywood County Bar Association President
Haywood Law Office
50 Boyd Avenue
Brownsville, TN 38012-0438

Lynda Hood
Executive Director
Chattanooga Bar Association
801 Broad Street Suite, 420 Pioneer
Building
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Kevin Keeton
Hawkins County Bar Association President
Law Office of James N. Point
115 E. Washington Street
Rogersville, TN 37857-3317

Edward Lanquist
Nashville Bar Association President-Elect
Waddey & Patterson, PC
1600 Division Street, Suite 500
Nashville, TN 37203

William Locke
Warren County Bar Association President
General Sessions Judge
Warren County Courthouse
Mcminnville, TN 37111-0228

Matt Maddox
Carroll County Bar Association President
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 827
Huntingdon, TN 38344

Timothy Mickel
Chattanooga Bar Association President
Evans Harrison Hackett PLLC
One Central Plaza, Suite 800, 835 Georgia
Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Denny Mitchell
White County Bar Association President
Mitchell Law Office
112 South Main Street
Sparta, TN 38583

Lynn Newcomb
Cheatham County Bar Association
President
Balthrop, Perry, Noe, Newcomb & Morgan
102 Frey Street
Ashland City, TN 37015

Thomas Parkerson
Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association
Parkerson Santel, PLLC
121 E. Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Beverly Rayburn
Maury County Bar Association President
14 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401

Amber Shaw
Tipton County Bar Association President
Law Office of J. Houston Gordon
114 W. Liberty Avenue, Suite 300
Covington, TN 38019

David Stanifer
Claiborne County Bar Association
President
Stanifer & Stanifer
P.O. Box 217
Tazewell, TN 37879

Shawn Trail
Coffee County Bar Association President
Shawn C. Trail, Attorney
117 S. Spring Street
Manchester, TN 37355

Matt West
Jackson-Madison-Henderson County Bar
Association
Teel & Maroney PLC
425 E. Baltimore Street
Jackson, TN 38301

Ian McCabe
Loudon County Bar Association President
Ian McCabe
329 Ellis Avenue
Maryville, TN 37804-5840

John Miles
Obion County Bar Association President
John Miles, Atty.
P.O. Box 8
Union City, TN 38281

Darren Mitchell
Campbell County Bar Association President
P.O. Box 375
Jacksboro, TN 37757

Ashley Ownby
Bradley County Bar Association President
Ashley L. Ownby Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 176
Cleveland, TN 37364-0176

Beau Pemberton
Weakley County Bar Association President
Law Ofc Of James H Bradberry
109 North Poplar Street
Dresden, TN 38225-0789

Jarod Richert
Robertson County Bar Association
President
Richert & Dilliha PLLC
516 S. Main Street
Springfield, TN 37172

Tom Sherrard
Nashville Bar Association Immediate Past
President
Sherrard & Roe PLC
150 3rd Avenue S., #1100
Nashville, TN 37201-2011

James Taylor
Rhea County Bar Association President
1374 Railroad Street, Suite 400
Dayton, TN 37321-2211

Linda Warren Seely
Memphis Bar Association Immediate Past
President
Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc.
116 Tuckahoe Road
Jackson, TN 38305

Derreck Whitson
Cocke County Bar Association President
Law OFC of J Derreck Whitson
P.O. Box 1230
Newport, TN 37822

Lee McVey
Kingsport Bar Association President
The Mcvey Law Firm
108 E. Main Street, Suite 208
Kingsport, TN 37660

Robin Miller
Chattanooga Bar Association Immediate
Past President
Spears Moore Rebman & Williams PC
P.O. Box 1749
Chattanooga, TN 37401

David Myers
Union County Bar Association President
105 Monroe Street
Maynardville, TN 37807-0013

Tommy Parker
Memphis Bar Association President-Elect
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell &
Berkowitz PC
165 Madison Avenue, Suite 2000
Memphis, TN 38103

Jennifer Porth
Fifteenth Judicial District Bar Association
President
J Stephen Brown PC
224 W. Gay Street
Lebanon, TN 37088-0792

Randall Self
Lincoln County Bar Association President
Randall E Self, Attorney At Law
131 A Market Street E.
Fayetteville, TN 37334-0501

Jim Smith
Roane County Bar Association President
305 W. Rockwood Street
Rockwood, TN 37854

Harriet Thompson
Hardeman County Bar Association
President
P.O. Box 600
Bolivar, TN 38008

Tyler Weiss
Monroe County Bar Association President
Worthington & Weiss, P.C.
409 College Street N., Street 1
Madisonville, TN 37354-3103

John Lee Williams
Humphreys County Bar Association
President
Porch Peeler WilliamsThomason
102 S. Court Square
Waverly, TN 37185-2113

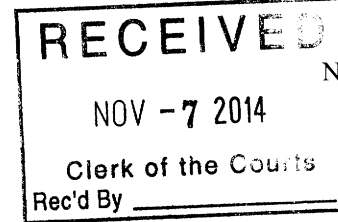
Matthew Willis
Dyer County Bar Association President
Ashley Ashley & Arnold
P.O. Box H
Dyersburg, TN 38025

Marsha Wilson
Knoxville Bar Association Executive
Director
Knoxville Bar Association
P.O. Box 2027
Knoxville, TN 37901



Thomas H. West

Attorney At Law



P. O. Box 292102
Nashville, TN 37229-2102

Phone: (615) 889-1051
Cell: (615) 478-1109
thwest60@gmail.com

November 5, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Tennessee Appellate Courts
401 7th Ave. N., Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3, **ADM2014-1954**

Dear Mr. Hivner:

Please add my comment to this matter.

My practice is almost exclusively family law in Tennessee and Kentucky.

I care about all parties to a divorce action, even as I represent only one party in such a case, especially when domestic abuse and/or violence is involved. I do from time to time solicit divorce clients by direct postal mail according to the current version of the Rules of Professional Conduct. In doing so, however, I am cautious about who I choose to solicit, as I share my colleagues' concerns about stirring up trouble in a potentially volatile matter.

For example, if the record shows that a case has been filed and the summons issued, especially for personal service, the service of process generally can take place at any time outside of the control of the plaintiff. In Davidson County, the Sheriff's Office will coordinate service of process with the plaintiff on an occasional basis. Also, they do ask to be informed in any case that is volatile or dangerous, as they will respond by serving with two deputies, instead of one. As a matter of routine and in most other counties statewide, however, once the process is turned over to the sheriff, it is out of the plaintiff's hands such that a direct mail solicitation of the adverse party should not make the matter more dangerous.



Thomas H. West

Attorney At Law

P. O. Box 292102
Nashville, TN 37229-2102

Phone: (615) 889-1051
Cell: (615) 478-1109
thwest60@gmail.com

Attorneys probably would be best advised to carefully consider when and whether to file the complaint. They probably should not file until and unless he/she and the client are absolutely certain the case should proceed. Unlike in personal injury, health care liability, and other areas of law, there generally are no statutes of limitation or repose that would force filing of a complaint by a specific deadline, except sometimes when interstate child custody is involved.

Divorce cases can be distinguished from accidents and disasters in which a 30 day ban on direct mail advertising already exists. In a divorce case, the adverse party is, by definition, being sued, and he/she has only 30 days to file an answer. If a 30 day ban is imposed for divorce cases, by the time the ban expires, the adverse party may be facing a motion for default judgment. By contrast, victims of accidents and disasters generally are not being sued and they face no mandate to bring a suit if they choose not to do so. Further, I would respectfully submit that the importance of this matter may well be undermined by the fact that no bar associations have submitted comments in this matter, particularly the Tennessee Bar Association, the Nashville Bar Association, and the Memphis Bar Association.

As the Court knows, the balance in this matter is the attorney's constitutional rights of commercial free speech as against the safety of the plaintiff and/or other parties to the litigation. U. S. Supreme Court precedent, specifically *Shapero v. Kentucky Bar Association*, 486 U.S. 466 (1988), the Court ruled on an ethical provision prohibiting the "mailing or delivery of written advertisements 'precipitated by a specific event or occurrence involving or relating to the addressee or addressees as distinct from the general public.'" Speaking to the difference between the permissible general mail and the impermissible targeted mail, the Court stated that the First Amendment "does not permit a ban on certain speech merely because it is more efficient." *Ibid.* at 473. In like fashion, a ban on soliciting divorce clients likely would be unconstitutional. Whether a ban on such communications for 30 days after filing would be constitutional is an open question. In the case of *Florida State Bar v. Went For It, Inc.*, 515 U.S. 618 (1995), the Court stated that, "The purpose of the 30-day targeted direct mail ban is to forestall the outrage and irritation with the state licensed legal profession that the practice of direct



Thomas H. West

Attorney At Law

P. O. Box 292102
Nashville, TN 37229-2102

Phone: (615) 889-1051
Cell: (615) 478-1109
thwest60@gmail.com

solicitation only days after accidents has engendered. The Bar is concerned not with citizens' 'offense' in the abstract . . . but with the demonstrable detrimental effects that such 'offense' has on the profession it regulates." Further, in that case, the Florida Bar submitted the results of two years of empirical study and major newspaper editorials in the state that supported their position in the case. It appears that no state currently has a 30 day ban in place for divorce cases, and the reason likely is that citizens are not so irritated or outraged with attorneys advertising for business in such cases. Also, as I noted above, neither the Tennessee Bar Association nor any of this state's other major bar associations is clamoring for such a ban.

Instead of a 30 day ban, I recommend adding a comment to Rule 7.3 such as the following:

"In seeking business under this rule, attorneys are well advised to be mindful to act with great care and caution in soliciting clients in matters that frequently are volatile or dangerous, such as divorce cases."

Most attorneys likely would take heed of such a comment, such that an outright ban would be unnecessary.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

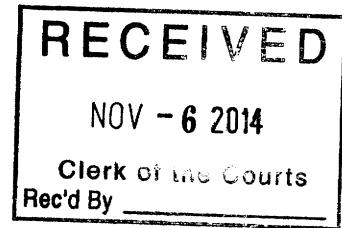
Sincerely,

Thomas H. West



November 5, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: No. ADM2014-01954
Rule 8, RPC 7.3

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I write in support of the proposed change to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.3.

Although I do not practice domestic relations law, I have been advised by lawyers whom I respect that practice in this field that persons alleged to have abused their spouse have received, from lawyer solicitations, notice of a pending divorce complaint before the aggrieved spouse has been able to move to a place of safety. This obviously increases the risk that harm may come to the both spouses (and their children), either because of aggressive action by one spouse or defensive action by the other.

Under these circumstances, I think the risk of harm to both spouses (and their children) substantially outweighs the free-speech right of lawyer to let a defendant in divorce cases know that an action has been filed against him or her in an effort to solicit a new client. Likewise, the proposed rule change does not harm the legitimate rights of the domestic relations defendant, who is permitted thirty days to answer the complaint from the date of service) and thus has plenty of time to seek out, interview and employ legal counsel.

I encourage the Court to adopt the proposed change to Rule 7.3

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICES OF JOHN DAY, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John A. Day", written over a horizontal line.

John A. Day

JAD/kc

THE LAW OFFICE OF
CYNTHIA C. CHAPPELL

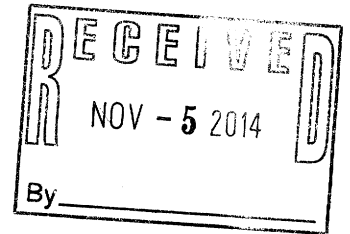
211 Union Street, Suite 200
Nashville, Tennessee 37201

Phone: (615) 620-3272

Fax: (615) 369-3344

November 3, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: *In Re Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3), Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court*
No. ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed amendment to Rule 8 pertaining to divorce or legal separation. My practice includes family law matters, and I have had one instance recently of a spouse notified via a solicitation letter of the divorce filing prior to being advised of or served with the complaint. Even in a divorce situation that does not include allegations of violence, a spouse's notification of divorce via a solicitation letter may unnecessarily create an environment of distrust and hostility. I agree that a thirty day prohibition against contacting the to-be-served spouse would allow for a more controlled presentation of a divorce or legal separation complaint, would adequately address safety needs in potentially violent situations, and would not unreasonably restrict solicitation of potential clients.

Yours very truly,


CYNTHIA C. CHAPPELL

JACKSON, KWELLER, MCKINNEY,

HAYES, LEWIS & GARRETT

FOUNDED 1930

AN ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS

ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE

214 SECOND AVENUE NORTH

SUITE 103

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

TELEPHONE (615) 256-2602

FACSIMILE (615) 242-5967

ROBERT L. JACKSON

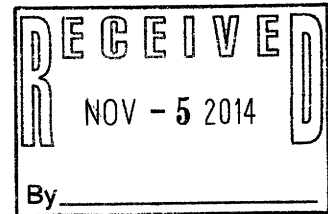
EUGENE D. JACKSON (1895-1958)

EUGENE D. JACKSON, JR. (1915-1979)

November 3, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Adm 2014-01954



Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing you to endorse and support the proposed amendment of RFP 7.3(b)(3) as relates to solicitation by attorneys of newly filed divorce or legal separation cases.

I have been a duly licensed attorney in Tennessee since 1965, practicing in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. My practice is concentrated in domestic relations. I have mediated more than 800 divorce/domestic relations matters in the past eight (8) years.

This solicitation by attorneys and law firms often leads to domestic violence or a spouse transferring, secreting or concealing assets before the statutory injunction is in place. We need this amendment.

If I can be of further service, please feel free to call on me.

November 3, 2014

Page - 2 -

With kind regards, I am,

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Jackson" following in a similar style.

Robert L. Jackson

RLJ/cws

JACKSON, KWELLER, MCKINNEY,

HAYES, LEWIS & GARRETT

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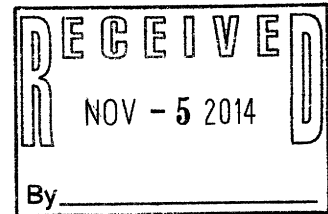
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Robert L. Jackson

RLJ/cws

THE LAW OFFICE OF
CYNTHIA C. CHAPPELL

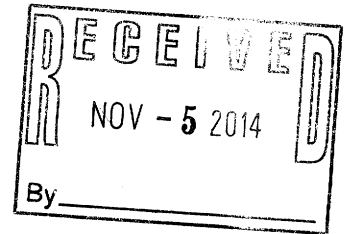
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November 3, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
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Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: *In Re Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3), Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court*
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Yours very truly,


CYNTHIA C. CHAPPELL



TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE

1903 Division Street, Nashville, TN 37203 • Phone 615.329.3000 • Fax 615.329.8131 • E-mail: skeith@tnaj.org

Jon Peeler, Nashville – President

Suzanne G. Keith - Executive Director

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Eric L. Buchanan, Chattanooga
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Vice President-West

Bruce D. Fox, Clinton
Secretary

Matthew C. Hardin, Nashville
Treasurer

Tony Duncan, Nashville
Parliamentarian

AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES

Danny Ellis, Chattanooga
Brandon Newman, Trenton
Taylor Sutherland, Nashville

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Re: No. ADM2014-01954

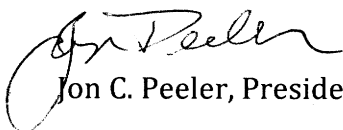
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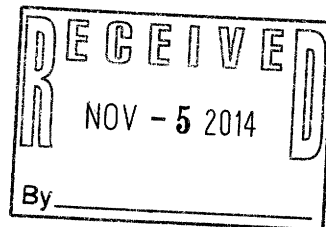
The Tennessee Association for Justice (TAJ) endorses the proposed change to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 7.3.

It is common practice, in representing victims of domestic violence, to withhold service of a complaint against a person charged with abuse until the victim or victims – many of these cases involve wholly innocent children – can be moved to a safe place. Our members have encountered instances in which persons charged with abuse have received, from lawyer solicitations, notice of a pending complaint prior to a move to safety having been accomplished. These instances have endangered victims.

TAJ hesitates to endorse any proposal that limits the fundamental constitutional right of access to courts, as this proposal and current Rule 7.3 both do. But TAJ is dedicated to preserving the safety of clients. Its members are practical people whose views of the law are shaped by their daily experiences in courtrooms throughout the state. Their experience indicates that this proposal addresses a problem that exists, appears to be growing, and endangers the lives of victims of domestic violence. The rationale supporting this amendment to Rule 7.3 is much more powerful than the rationale supporting the Rule's existing prohibitions on solicitation. We find the proposed amendment within the narrow bounds drawn in *Florida Bar v. Went for It, Inc.*, 515 U.S. 618 (1994), and suggest that its quick adoption is warranted.

Very truly yours,


Jon C. Peeler, President





TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE

1903 Division Street, Nashville, TN 37203 • Phone 615.329.3000 • Fax 615.329.8131 • E-mail: skeith@tnaj.org

Jon Peeler, Nashville – President

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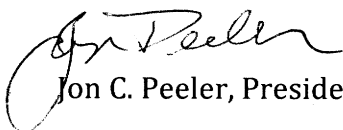
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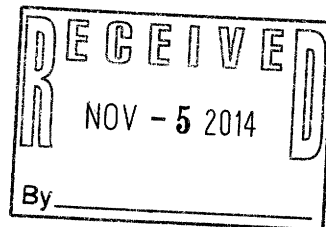
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Jon C. Peeler, President



HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*†
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA†
KATIE MATHEWS ZIPPER
GEORGE D. SPANOS

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



*CERTIFIED
CIVIL TRIAL & PRETRIAL
PRACTICE SPECIALIST

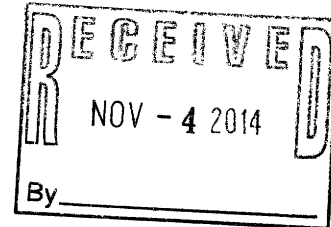
†RULE 31

MEDIATOR

November 3, 2014

PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
KATHLEEN MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN
LAURA BLUM

Mr. James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



RE: Rule 8, RPC 7.3, No. ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am a domestic attorney practicing in Nashville and middle Tennessee. I am writing to express my support of the proposed amendment to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.3.

There are several attorneys in middle Tennessee who check the court filings daily to solicit business from domestic defendants, mainly in divorce cases. This practice has to stop (at least for a certain time period) to protect the plaintiffs in these sensitive and often dangerous situations.

I recently had one client who, for various reasons, needed to file for divorce prior to telling her husband that she planned to file. We filed her Complaint on a Thursday. She asked if we could wait to serve her husband until Monday so that she could tell him face-to-face over the weekend that she had filed for divorce. I told her that was fine with me, but warned her that her husband could possibly receive a solicitation from an attorney after we filed the Complaint. Sure enough, the husband received a letter from an attorney the following Saturday, before the wife had an opportunity to tell him herself. The husband was quite upset to learn that his wife had filed for divorce by receiving a letter from an attorney soliciting his business. The husband became angry with the wife. Thankfully, his anger was only expressed verbally and not physically, but the situation could have been much worse.

I have heard of other similar situations with much more serious and dangerous consequences. This rule needs to change so that plaintiff spouses have an opportunity to file for divorce then make any necessary arrangements to ensure their safety. That might mean telling the other spouse face-to-face, moving out of the home, and/or asking the court to enter a restraining order.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this letter, and I hope you will make this important amendment to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.3.

Best regards,

Katie M. Zipper

Katie Mathews Zipper

MAIN OFFICE

The Wind in the Willows Mansion
2205 STATE STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-1850
(615) 320-0600 • FAX (615) 320-9933
WWW.HELENROGERSLAW.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE

317 MAIN STREET SUITE 206
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064
(615) 807-1287

HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*†
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA†
KATIE MATHEWS ZIPPER
GEORGE D. SPANOS

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



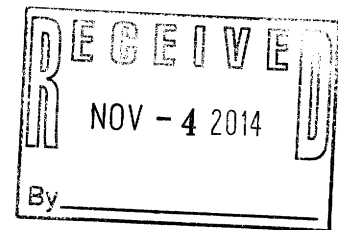
*CERTIFIED
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MEDIATOR

PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
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RENEE BROWN
LAURA BLUM

November 3, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Re: No. ADM2014-01954



Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing in support of amending Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.3 as set forth in Docket No. ADM2014-01954. I practice in the area of family law and have had several clients who have had grave concern as to whether they should file or not, specifically due to the reaction that their spouse may have. These situations do not always include physical abuse, but even psychological and financial abuse. These situations are very delicate and should not be blindly interfered with by an attorney who simply scours new court filings to contact potential clients. When a client files for divorce in any type of abusive situation, they should not have to suffer additional distress from the possibility of someone with no knowledge of their situation informing their abuser that a divorce has been filed.

There is no way to delineate a case where abuse is alleged or not as every case has its own strategy and may not set out specific averments of abuse. The rule change has only one goal: to protect a class of people, abuse victims, that the law has set out specific measures to protect. If someone is arrested on domestic assault charges, they are restrained from returning home and the victim is notified of how long the person will be detained. I feel that we would be promoting the opposite by not approving this rule change. Abuse victims should have security in knowing that if they file for divorce, proper safeguards are in place to prevent their spouse from finding out about the divorce and being vulnerable to potential harm.

This is not only a very realistic fear that clients have, but a situation that my office has recently seen. Luckily, our client was not harmed, but underwent a significant amount of verbal/psychological abuse from their spouse. In addition to going through this, they felt betrayed by our office as they could not understand how someone could simply find out about the filing and contact their spouse for no reason. It significantly impacted our relationship with the client at a time when trust between both sides was needed, due to the acts of the spouse. Our

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317 MAIN STREET SUITE 206
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064
(615) 807-1287

Mr. James Hivner
November 3, 2014
Page 2

concern is that this situation will arise again, whether it is our client or someone else's, but will result in much more dire consequences.

Please approve this rule change.

With best wishes I remain,

Very truly yours,


George D. Spanos

HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*†
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA†
KATIE MATHEWS ZIPPER
GEORGE D. SPANOS

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
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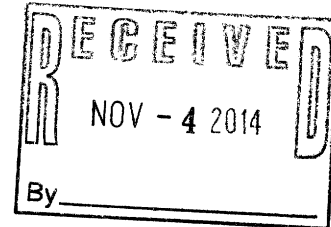
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MEDIATOR

November 3, 2014

PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
KATHLEEN MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN
LAURA BLUM

Mr. James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



RE: Rule 8, RPC 7.3, No. ADM2014-01954

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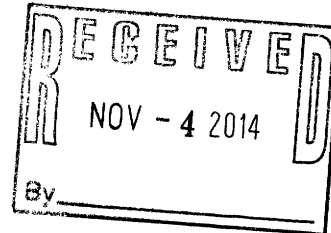
OF COUNSEL:
AUDREY ANDERSON

November 3, 2014
Via U.S.P.S. 1st Class Mail

*CERTIFIED CIVIL
TRIAL SPECIALIST
AND RULE 31
MEDIATOR

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-1407

PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
GEORGE D. SPANOS
KATIE MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN



Re: *In the Supreme Court of Tennessee at Nashville;*
In re Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3); Docket No.ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing to comment on the proposed change to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rule of Professional Conduct 7.3(b)(c), and to state that I am wholeheartedly in favor of the requested modification.

At the inception of divorces and/or legal separations that stem from domestic violence and/or abuse, timing is everything – particularly when restraining orders are involved. As the plaintiff spouse's attorney in a domestic violence case one must: a) develop a plan for keeping the plaintiff and other family members safe during the divorce process; b) file a complaint containing a request for a restraining order; c) wait for the restraining order to be signed by a Judge – usually a period of one or two days; d) pick up the service packet (the summons, complaint, and restraining order) from the Clerk of the Court; d) implement the safety plan; and e) serve the summons, complaint, and restraining order on the defendant.

Generally, in these types of cases the defendant is served at a pre-arranged time, or the process server immediately notifies the plaintiff when the divorce packet has been served upon the defendant. Under either scenario the plaintiff knows exactly when the defendant is made aware of the divorce action, and the pre-determined safety measures are put into place contemporaneously with the service of the complaint and restraining order.

All of the carefully-crafted protective measures can be short-circuited, however, by the delivery of an attorney's solicitation letter to the would-be defendant before he or she has been served. Essentially, the solicitation letter completely eradicates the safety plan and converts the plaintiff into a sitting duck at ground zero. I have seen enough of this to know that sooner or later one of these solicitation letters is going to get someone severely injured or dead.

In all honesty, I have often wondered why the crafters of RPC 7.03 thought it was necessary to protect injured workers and accident victims from immediate solicitation by attorneys. To me it seems like it would be helpful for such persons to have timely access to representation before they unknowingly release or otherwise relinquish rights.

The Wind in the Willows Mansion

James Hivner, Clerk
November 3, 2014
Page 2

On the other hand, it has never made sense to me that we impose a 30-day stay of solicitation in worker's compensation and personal injury cases, but divorce and legal separation matters – in which people can be physically injured or killed as a result of untimely solicitation letters – have no such stay in place.

It is my hope that our Supreme Court will see modify Rule 7.3(b)(3) as proposed in the Appendix to its Order of October 9, 2014.

With best wishes, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence J. Kamm". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Lawrence" and last name "Kamm" clearly legible.

Lawrence J. Kamm

LJK/rb

HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



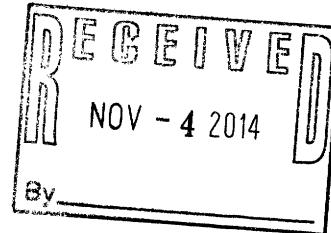
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NANCY HARDT
GEORGE D. SPANOS
KATIE MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN



Re: *In the Supreme Court of Tennessee at Nashville;*
In re Rule 8, RPC 7.3(b)(3); Docket No.ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing to comment on the proposed change to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rule of Professional Conduct 7.3(b)(c), and to state that I am wholeheartedly in favor of the requested modification.

At the inception of divorces and/or legal separations that stem from domestic violence and/or abuse, timing is everything – particularly when restraining orders are involved. As the plaintiff spouse's attorney in a domestic violence case one must: a) develop a plan for keeping the plaintiff and other family members safe during the divorce process; b) file a complaint containing a request for a restraining order; c) wait for the restraining order to be signed by a Judge – usually a period of one or two days; d) pick up the service packet (the summons, complaint, and restraining order) from the Clerk of the Court; d) implement the safety plan; and e) serve the summons, complaint, and restraining order on the defendant.

Generally, in these types of cases the defendant is served at a pre-arranged time, or the process server immediately notifies the plaintiff when the divorce packet has been served upon the defendant. Under either scenario the plaintiff knows exactly when the defendant is made aware of the divorce action, and the pre-determined safety measures are put into place contemporaneously with the service of the complaint and restraining order.

All of the carefully-crafted protective measures can be short-circuited, however, by the delivery of an attorney's solicitation letter to the would-be defendant before he or she has been served. Essentially, the solicitation letter completely eradicates the safety plan and converts the plaintiff into a sitting duck at ground zero. I have seen enough of this to know that sooner or later one of these solicitation letters is going to get someone severely injured or dead.

In all honesty, I have often wondered why the crafters of RPC 7.03 thought it was necessary to protect injured workers and accident victims from immediate solicitation by attorneys. To me it seems like it would be helpful for such persons to have timely access to representation before they unknowingly release or otherwise relinquish rights.

The Wind in the Willows Mansion

James Hivner, Clerk
November 3, 2014
Page 2

On the other hand, it has never made sense to me that we impose a 30-day stay of solicitation in worker's compensation and personal injury cases, but divorce and legal separation matters – in which people can be physically injured or killed as a result of untimely solicitation letters – have no such stay in place.

It is my hope that our Supreme Court will see modify Rule 7.3(b)(3) as proposed in the Appendix to its Order of October 9, 2014.

With best wishes, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence J. Kamm". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Lawrence J. Kamm

LJK/rb

HELEN SFIKAS ROGERS*†
LAWRENCE J. KAMM
SIEW-LING SHEA†
KATIE MATHEWS ZIPPER
GEORGE D. SPANOS

ROGERS, KAMM & SHEA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



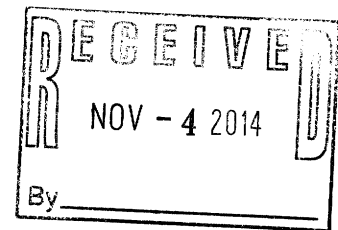
*CERTIFIED
CIVIL TRIAL & PRETRIAL
PRACTICE SPECIALIST
†RULE 31
MEDIATOR

PARALEGAL STAFF:
ALAN GENTRY
NANCY HARDT
KATHLEEN MARCOTTE
RENEE BROWN
LAURA BLUM

November 3, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Building
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Re: No. ADM2014-01954



Dear Mr. Hivner:

I am writing in support of amending Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.3 as set forth in Docket No. ADM2014-01954. I practice in the area of family law and have had several clients who have had grave concern as to whether they should file or not, specifically due to the reaction that their spouse may have. These situations do not always include physical abuse, but even psychological and financial abuse. These situations are very delicate and should not be blindly interfered with by an attorney who simply scours new court filings to contact potential clients. When a client files for divorce in any type of abusive situation, they should not have to suffer additional distress from the possibility of someone with no knowledge of their situation informing their abuser that a divorce has been filed.

There is no way to delineate a case where abuse is alleged or not as every case has its own strategy and may not set out specific averments of abuse. The rule change has only one goal: to protect a class of people, abuse victims, that the law has set out specific measures to protect. If someone is arrested on domestic assault charges, they are restrained from returning home and the victim is notified of how long the person will be detained. I feel that we would be promoting the opposite by not approving this rule change. Abuse victims should have security in knowing that if they file for divorce, proper safeguards are in place to prevent their spouse from finding out about the divorce and being vulnerable to potential harm.

This is not only a very realistic fear that clients have, but a situation that my office has recently seen. Luckily, our client was not harmed, but underwent a significant amount of verbal/psychological abuse from their spouse. In addition to going through this, they felt betrayed by our office as they could not understand how someone could simply find out about the filing and contact their spouse for no reason. It significantly impacted our relationship with the client at a time when trust between both sides was needed, due to the acts of the spouse. Our

MAIN OFFICE
2205 STATE STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203-1850
(615) 320-0600 • FAX (615) 320-9933
WWW.HELENROGERSLAW.COM

FRANKLIN OFFICE
317 MAIN STREET SUITE 206
FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE 37064
(615) 807-1287

Mr. James Hivner
November 3, 2014
Page 2

concern is that this situation will arise again, whether it is our client or someone else's, but will result in much more dire consequences.

Please approve this rule change.

With best wishes I remain,

Very truly yours,


George D. Spanos

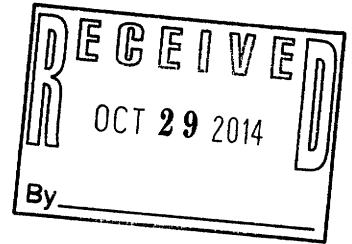
James H. Drescher

J.D.

Attorney at Law

October 28, 2014

James Hivner, Clerk
Re: Rule 8, RPC 7.3
Tennessee Appellate Courts
100 Supreme Court Bldg.
401 7th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407



Re: ADM2014-01954

Dear Mr. Hivner:

Please add my concerns to those expressed in the attached. My law practice is predominantly family law. I have been licensed since 1982. I joined a Nashville firm in 1991 when I left the Marine Corps. I was a judge advocate for nine years.

If it were up to me, lawyer solicitation of potential clients in divorces would be completely forbidden.

Several years ago, I was retained to represent the wife of a very wealthy businessman. The parties had been married for over twenty years and had several minor children. At that time in Davidson County, it was generally accepted that filing first had potential advantages. My client was unsure about wanting to end the marriage but I advised her that filing first could be beneficial. Thus, she opted to file but we had no immediate intention of serving the complaint. My client clung to the hope that she and her husband might reconcile. A few days later, my client called me in a breathless panic. Her husband had received a form solicitation letter in the mail which essentially said "we see you have been sued for divorce, you need to hire a lawyer right away". Naturally, the husband was demanding to know what was afoot.

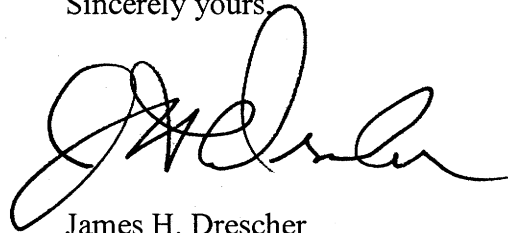
I was furious. My client was, in turn, furious with me.

I knew the lawyer who sent the letter. I spoke to several colleagues about my concerns. What if my client had been beaten or murdered? These things do happen. I spoke privately to the family law judges in Davidson County, wondering, perhaps, if a local rule might be implemented to halt this dangerous practice. More particularly, I confronted the lawyer who sent the letter. I firmly explained to him the dangers posed by his letters. I sternly warned him to refrain from doing this in any future case I might file. In the midst of these conversations, I learned that he was not the only one who routinely sent these letters to divorce defendants. As it turns out, the lawyer who sent the letter agreed not to send future correspondence in cases I filed

(how he might assure an exception for me made me skeptical at best). Perhaps most importantly, my client and her husband sought counseling and were able to avoid divorce.

Should the Supreme Court declined to bar these letters in domestic cases, it is still my strong view that a waiting period be imposed and the longer the better. Thirty days would seem to be a minimum. I truly believe that these letters pose a palpable threat to the safety of litigants and their children. The manner and timing of telling an emotional, angry and violent person that a divorce action has been filed should be solely left to the plaintiff and his or her lawyer, not to someone trolling for business.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Drescher", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James H. Drescher

Enclosure



A Full Service Law Firm

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Robert J. Turner

Ileshia M. Dupes

Brad H. Frakes

Paul J. Reynard

Caroline K. Thompson

Dear [REDACTED]

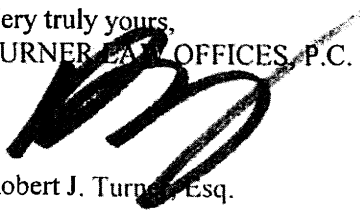
If you have already hired or retained a lawyer for this matter, please disregard this letter. The public records of the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk reveal that a Complaint for Divorce has been filed against you. Failure to retain an attorney and to defend yourself from the allegations of your spouse can result in significant emotional and financial hardships. Our law firm has over twenty (20) years of experience handling family law matters, and we have represented over ten thousand citizens in divorce cases. Based on the pleadings filed, we believe that our law firm is suited to handle your legal needs.

We are so committed to our belief that people involved in court proceedings should not represent themselves that we are dedicated to provide high quality legal representation at affordable prices. You should hire an attorney before your court appearance, as the first court appearance is a hearing date on the issues raised by your spouse. Call us when you receive this letter and make an appointment so that you can be sure that we have ample opportunity to prepare your case and are in court to represent you from the beginning. Failure to take this matter seriously can result in your spouse receiving support and sole and exclusive possession of the marital residence. Additionally, Courts generally DO NOT change any order until the final divorce hearing, which can be over a year away. Therefore, it is important to hire an attorney and to protect yourself from the very beginning!

We have developed a reasonable fee schedule wherein you are charged based on the difficulty of your case. Furthermore, we understand that our clients are not generally prepared to deal with the costs of defending divorce filed against them. For this reason, we offer affordable payment plans with low down payments, and we also accept MasterCard, VISA, and Discover.

Please call my office now or visit our website to set your free, no obligation initial consultation regarding your case. To learn more information regarding divorce law, please visit www.TurnerLawOffices.com/divorce. I will be happy to talk with you further, and to determine if I can assist you in this matter.

Very truly yours,
TURNER LAW OFFICES, P.C.


Robert J. Turner, Esq.

Not certified as a family law specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal
Education and Specialization

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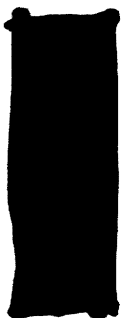
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208 Third Avenue North • First Floor, Suite 100 • Nashville, Tennessee 37201
Telephone (615) 259-2660 • Facsimile (615) 259-0912 • www.TurnerLawOffices.com

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