

SBWL

Santa Barbara Women Lawyers

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2016 Board of Directors

March 16, 2016

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Elvia P. Garcia

Sent via e-mail: modellruleamend@americanbar.org

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I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara Women Lawyers to express

Secretary

Elizabeth Diaz

our support for the proposed addition of Section 8.4 (g) to the Model Rules of

Directors:

Professional Conduct and for the proposed modification of Comment [3].

Emily Allen

These changes are needed to respond to the increasingly common conduct of

Danielle De Smeth

some attorneys to harass or knowingly discriminate against certain members of

Shannon DeNatale Boyd

the protected classes enumerated in the proposal. Here is one reported example of

Betty Jeppesen

why the rule change is needed. In January 2016, the California Commission on

Lauren Joyce

Judicial Performance publicly admonished Judge Joseph Bergeron of the San

Kuldeep Kaur

Mateo County Superior Court because he treated certain women at court

Kate McGuinness

Michelle E. Roberson

“inappropriately.” Harassment or knowing discrimination by attorneys of those in

Catherine J. Swysen

the protected classes when it is related to the practice of law brings disrepute to

the entire profession.

Sincerely,



Elvia Garcia

President, 2016

Santa Barbara Women Lawyers