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**Sent:** Monday, April 25, 2016 5:04 PM  
**To:** ABA Issues Paper Comments  
**Subject:** Non-Lawyer ownership of law firms

The profession which I joined 50 years ago has undergone many changes - many of them for the better. But, unfortunately, many have eroded the concept of a legal profession governed by ethical rules designed to protect the client and our profession. Adoption of a rule which would allow non-lawyer ownership of a law firm would virtually destroy the profession we have worked so hard to preserve. In most states lawyers are regulated by the State Supreme Court. Recently (in the last ten or so years) state legislators have tried to take over the regulation of the practice of law. We have been successful in preventing that attempted takeover in Florida because we are a profession and our Supreme Court has done a good job regulating us. If we have non-lawyer ownership of law firms, we lose one of our strongest positions in resisting a takeover by our legislature – we will be no different than any other business – further, the non-lawyers would not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and would only be concerned about profits/dividends.

I urge the ABA to stand tall for the profession and the future of the profession. Reject any attempt to allow non-lawyers own some or all of a law firm.

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