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**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2016 10:10 AM  
**To:** ABA Issues Paper Comments  
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**Subject:** Comment: Issues Paper Regarding Alternative Business Structures

**Re: The ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services: For Comment: Issues Paper Regarding Alternative Business Structures**

The proposal to allow Alternative Business Structures (ABS), complete with non-lawyer ownership and non-lawyer management, is a very bad and destructive idea – for the legal profession, the judicial system and the American public which they serve. I have been a practicing civil litigator in state and federal courts for over 40 years. In that time I have seen a consistent degradation of the profession – in the media and in the eyes of corporate and insurance businesses – which view lawyers as fungible vendors and “legal spend” centers, not as trained advocates bound by tradition to a code of ethics and civility -- to do our duty to the core concepts of justice.

We risk turning a noble profession into a metric-driven, bottom-line oriented business; managed and owned by persons who have never taken a course in legal ethics – who maybe never even read or seen the likes of “To Kill A Mockingbird” and therefore have no real understanding of what drives men and women into this still-noble profession.

Speaking of that, I also think of my daughter and her colleagues about to graduate from law school (specifically my own alma-mater of which your Commission’s vice-chair, Andrew Perlman, is Dean). What “profession” will they have as new members of the bar? It certainly is not as though there are not enough lawyers in the United States, whether brand new or full of experience, to fill our firms and other legal providers.

There is no demonstrated need for non-lawyer ownership and management of law firms. The American Bar Association is an organization which should promote and preserve the professional essence of what it means to be a lawyer. I trust it will live true to its mission and reject the ABS proposal.

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