



***Black Women Lawyers' Association
of Greater Chicago, Inc.***

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March 28, 2006

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American Bar Association
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Re: Amendments to ABA rule 4.04(B)(3)

The Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago ("BWLA"), commends the ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct on its exhaustive and thoughtful work. Your request and consideration of commentary from various judicial and non-judicial organizations is laudable.

BWLA joins in the comments and recommendations of the National Association of Women Judges as set forth in their letter dated March 16, 2006, a copy of which is attached hereto. BWLA is committed to identifying and addressing issues and concerns unique to African-American women lawyers and judges; to improving the administration of justice by increasing the participation of African-American women and other minorities throughout the legal system; and to advancing civil and human rights. The language as proposed in Rule 4.04(B)(3) and Comment [8], may give judges pause in considering whether they can participate in our events which include fundraisers. Such a question in their minds would be a tragedy for them as well as for the communities which they serve.

Please accept the recommendations as set for by the NAWJ, it will best serve our community and maintain the integrity of all who serve on the bench.

Very truly yours,

Lela D. Johnson
President