

Summary

Juan J. Redin

Attorney General National Latina/Latino Law Student Association (NLLSA),

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Rule 4.04(B)(3)

NLLSA urges the commission to retain the language in Rule 4.04(B)(3) which permits judges to appear at, speak, and/or receive recognition at fundraising events such as ones sponsored by minority bar associations. NLLSA believes there would be a harmful impact from prohibiting judicial participation in events put on by organizations that represent and are made up of members from underrepresented communities. Organizations like NLLSA who advocate for the legal rights of minorities, immigrants and other vulnerable groups will invariably combine their major events with a fundraising element.

NLLSA finds Comment [8] particularly alarming and urges the commission to omission this Comment.. They find that Comment [1], which reads a “judge is permitted to participate in civic or charitable activities for the benefit of the community of which the judge is a part, provided that such participation does not take inappropriate advantage of the judge’s position, or otherwise interfere with the performance of the judge’s judicial duties,” provides ample protection for unethical activities by judges.