

From: Munoz, Veronica
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2006 6:17 PM
To: dstender77@aol.com
Cc: Kladder, Marcia
Subject: RE: Comments on Model Code due tomorrow, March 15, 2006
Importance: High

TO: ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct

FR: Pamela J. Roberts, Chair, ABA Commission on Women in the Profession

DT: March 14, 2006

RE: Comments on the 2005 Final Draft Report of the ABA Joint Commission to Evaluate the Model Code of Judicial Conduct

The ABA Commission on Women in the Profession commends the ABA's Joint Commission for its diligent and thorough work on the Model Code of Judicial Conduct.

As articulated by the comments previously submitted by several groups, including the National Association of Women Judges and the National Judicial Education Program, and testimony at the public hearings; the Commission on Women in the Profession is concerned that the language stated in proposed Canon 4, Rules 4.01 and 4.04, and related Comments, will result in judges being prohibited from participating in activities and/or membership in organized women's bar associations.

Such limitations(s) as crafted are troubling for two reasons. First, members of the judiciary must, while preserving their personal integrity and independence, be able to participate in and interact in their respective communities. Isolation can limit a judge's perspective, not to mention impair the public's perspective of the judiciary. Second, women lawyers, in particular, gain immeasurably from interaction with and mentoring from women members of the judiciary. We are concerned that the Rules as presently stated would prohibit or strongly discourage any such activity.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this draft, and we further commend your work to date. Should you wish further comment from the Commission, we are more than willing to assist in that fashion.