

From: Mark Baumkel <markbaumkel@gmail.com>
To: <ADMcomment@courts.mi.gov>
Date: 7/24/2014 12:13 PM
Subject: Task Force on Role of State Bar

I am a Michigan attorney practicing in this state for the past 37 years.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Like the overwhelming majority of my lawyer colleagues, I am shocked and appalled at the recent recommendation to stifle the ability of the Michigan Bar Association to express opinions on matters relevant to the practice of law and/or to public well being.

This has hallmarks of repressive measures normally characteristic of unhealthy totalitarian societies, and seems to single out the legal profession for muzzling collective unified expression (I am unaware of any similar prohibition against the organized associations of any other licensed profession, whether doctors, plumbers, teachers, etc., etc.).

Shakespeare recognized hundreds of years ago that the first agenda item for repressive government is to silence the lawyers.

This astonishing proposal which would humiliate Michigan as the unique bastion among all the states of a see no-evil hear no evil-speak no evil bar association should be rejected.

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