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CC: Kevin Green <Kevin_Green@mascohq.com>
Date: 6/19/2014 6:25 PM
Subject: Report to the Michigan Supreme Court by the Task Force in the Role of the State Bar of Michigan

I have reviewed the Task Force's recommendations and I commend and thank the members for their diligent work and the resulting work product. My comments:

- I wholeheartedly support the continuation of the mandatory bar, with or without the adoption of the other recommendations.
- I agree that advocacy to protect or further the interests of the legal profession is inappropriate for the Bar and I agree with the deletion of this provision.
- I was pleased to see where we rank nationally in terms of dues and I support reducing the dues for inactive members.
- The Keller restrictions appear to go beyond what is required by Keller (the report seems to acknowledge as much by noting that these would be the strictest rules in the country) and may unnecessarily limit and delay what I consider appropriate advocacy. An objection by a small number of members does not seem to be a legitimate basis (or a First Amendment violation) for prohibiting the Bar from taking an advocacy position that is supported by a majority of its members and I think that there could be a less-restrictive (and faster) method of dealing with such matters, such as requiring the submission and publication of dissents concurrently with the submission of the Bar's recommendations.
- I think that requiring Sections to somehow dissociate themselves from the State Bar when taking an advocacy position is unrealistic and perhaps the same result be accomplished in a less onerous manner by an appropriate disclaimer that the views expressed are those of the Section only and not of the State Bar of Michigan.

Best wishes for a civil debate and resolution of these matters as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

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