

Faulk, Camilla

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 8:17 AM
To: Chandler, Desiree R.; Faulk, Camilla
Subject: FW: Comment Re: GR 12.4

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From: Meredith Hutchins [<mailto:bczican@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 12:29 AM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject: Comment Re: GR 12.4

I just recently learned that the WSBA has proposed GR 12.4 which, in essence, would allow the Bar to keep virtually all of their records and activities private. At a time when the public distrust of the legal profession continues to grow, the Bar's proposal flies in the face of reason.

Members of the Bar are also questioning the operation of the organization as evidenced by their recent vote to reduce Bar dues. Many of us have also been shocked and angered to learn that members of the Bar staff and Board of Governors travelled to Hawaii at Bar expense and then refused to be accountable for money spent [from our Bar dues] to finance this boondoggle. One day at the Hawaii 'conference' was spent at a golf tournament and dinner.

How can the public and members of the Bar have any respect for an organization which wishes to operate in secret? Although the State Bar Act states that the Bar is a public agency, the association continues to argue that it is not a public agency and therefore not subject to the public disclosure act. Regardless, an organization that is open to public scrutiny is a healthy one.

The Bar's actions are reflecting negatively on all members of the legal profession in this state. I urge the Court to reject the proposed rule and direct the Washington State Bar to comply with the provisions of the Public Disclosure law.

Very truly yours,

Meredith Wright Hutchins
WSBA #8749