

From: [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)
To: [Linford, Tera](#); [Tracy, Mary](#)
Subject: FW: Comment Proposed Lawyer Discipline rules
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:23:13 PM

From: Michael [mailto:mc@bridgelawpc.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 12:51 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment Proposed Lawyer Discipline rules

External Email Warning! This email has originated from outside of the Washington State Courts Network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, are expecting the email, and know the content is safe. If a link sends you to a website where you are asked to validate using your Account and Password, **DO NOT DO SO!** Instead, report the incident.

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed changes to lawyer discipline. I believe you have probably received many comments, and I don't have any new perspective to offer, but I would like to add my voice to those who have pointed out problems with the proposed changes.

Anne Seidel wrote an article on March 1st, and I am including a couple of her points that I found most troubling.

“However, a study in California found that Black male attorneys were disbarred or resigned at almost four times the rate of white male attorneys.⁵ An unscientific review of Washington public discipline from 2020 shows a possible disproportionate number of nonwhite attorneys subject to discipline. While we don't have good statistical information, it remains important to keep in mind which groups of lawyers may be most likely to be affected by an unfair set of procedures.”

And

“The lopsided nature of discovery should also be corrected. Before formal charges are filed, ODC can issue subpoenas, take depositions and require lawyers to produce documents and information. A respondent is entitled to no discovery other than requests for admission without an agreement of the parties or on motion.”

-March 2121 King County Bar Bulletin available at <https://www.kcba.org/For-Lawyers/Bar-Bulletin/PostId/1372/losing-your-license-will-be-easier-under-proposed-rule-changes>

I don't disagree that changes are probably necessary to the discipline system, but I would urge the Court to scrap this proposal and begin with a group of diverse stakeholders to address the myriad concerns with the current proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these thoughts,

Michael Charbonneau
WSBA #44356

--

Michael Charbonneau
Senior Litigation Counsel
****Please Note Our New Address****
Bridge Law, P.C.

Attorneys at Law
[23607 Highway 99, Suite 2C](#)
[Edmonds, WA 98026](#)
Seattle: 206.443.3232
Edmonds: 425.678.0436
Tacoma: 253.572.2121
Fax: [425.582.0819](#)

Notice: This e-mail is intended solely for the use of the individual to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged confidential, and may contain attorney's office work product or may be otherwise exempt from disclosure. If the reader of this email is not the intended recipient or the employee of or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify the sender at (425) 678-0436 or by replying to the original message at the listed email address and delete this email message from your computer. Thank you.