

**From:** [OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK](#)  
**To:** [Linford, Tera](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WSBA APR 11 Mods  
**Date:** Monday, April 26, 2021 2:45:08 PM

---

---

**From:** Richard Nielsen [mailto:richard@ranielsenlaw.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 2:41 PM  
**To:** OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>  
**Subject:** WSBA APR 11 Mods

**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.

To the Supreme Court, regarding the call for comments regarding the referenced, I offer the following support:

Should a Bar Assn take available steps to enhance the breadth, knowledge and understanding of its members so they may better understand and serve and assist the world and those within their circles of influence? Yes. If others answer “no,” I ask, where does that sentiment develop and reside? *“I don’t pay dues for WSBA to better the world!”* That sounds like a personal problem. I do – to better the world itself and our world of our young lawyers. By enhancing the scope and context and constructs available to all of us today, the privileged can get a *sense* – certainly, they cannot know, but *they can catch a glimpse* – of the nature and depth and reality of white supremacy engrained and entrenched in this society and American culture.

So, let’s take advantage of the gatherings of these lawyers who need their CLEs, and require them to hear about the topic(s). Equivalency is lacking when they tell us that the world would be better off as well if all lawyers semi-understood small, combustion engines. The latest sophistry: false equivalence. The difference is self-evident. So, this would be the start, for some, of the conversation we “substantially privileged” folk cannot evade forever. Really, expose the minds to the subject, the history, the truth that is available. Have a debate: what *is* race, really? Is it that which defines who someone is? Or is it just a social-cultural construct, an imaginary differentiation between human beings? Pay closest attention to the privileged who say, “I don’t see race.” Let’s give them some exposure.

Fantastic books and movies and lectures are available, for free, online, on the wide ranges of subjects related to these vital questions of getting along. But since lawyers are “too busy” to spend otherwise billable six-minute bites of time reading about “race” for fun, let’s give them some eye-opening, a dose of awareness, as part of the CLE requirements. At least enough that they can issue spot! It can only help each of them individually and could only enhance the understanding of the legal-connected community. And it would be a little something to remind the gang that they *really don’t* know everything they need to know about everything. They do not; no one does. And the more certain they are that they don’t need enlightening, the more we know they do. So, I endorse making them do so.

I just heard Lindsey Graham declare on national television that there is “no” “systemic racism” in America. I don’t need to hear that nonsense out of another lawyer, but I will. We all swim in the water that’s already been turned. To become aware of it is ... to become aware of it. And becoming even a bit more aware will help us to action. Because action is the key. But step 1 – one needs to know a problem exists to address it. And we need to do more to bring the members of this Bar Association together in enhanced understanding – truly together. Not only those of us who “know” we are the “us” in the world. All of us. Doing so is its own reward, would improve the Bar, and enhance its members’ ability to talk with people that do not look like them. Like Nancy Reagan said, kind of: *Just do it.* Her other one was: “*Just don’t say No.*” Sort of.

I stand ready to field questions.

Respectfully, and with best regards,

Richard  
WSBA 11916

\* \* \*

Richard A. Nielsen, Esq.  
Nielsen Law, PLLC  
711 24th Ave South  
Seattle, WA 98144

p. 206.323.7776  
f. 206.267.9522  
c. 206.919.0388  
[richard@ranielsenlaw.com](mailto:richard@ranielsenlaw.com)

*CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic mail transmission and any accompanying attachments contain information belonging to the sender which may be confidential and legally privileged. This information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom this electronic mail transmission was sent as indicated above. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution, or action taken in reliance on the contents of the information contained in this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy all copies of this transmission and all attachments. Thank you.*