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12/07/2016

Renk, Rex

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA
Case Number: AF 09-0688

From: Johanna Kennedy <cjkennedy6@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 6, 2016 9:43 PM
To: Court, SCclerk
Subject: Re: Suggested Change to Supreme Court Order Rule 8.4
Attachments: Clerk of Montana Supreme Court.docx

Clerk of Montana Supreme Court
PO Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003

RE: Professional Rules of Conduct-Rule 8.4

Dear Honorable Members of the Court,

In your order on October 26, 2016 regarding case number AF 09-0688 you have called for public comment on the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a citizen of Montana, I respectfully submit my request that you decline the adoption of this rule.

I strongly feel that the adoption of this Rule would significantly hinder an attorneys' freedom of speech as well as his/her religious freedom. I also see this rule to be overstepping the bounds of the call of a person in court in that this Rule highlights cultural preferences. It does not objectively interpret law, the primary purpose of the court. In addition, Rule 8.4(g) is biased in that it favors specific lifestyle preferences. For example, an attorney would be mindful if defending a client from the LBGT community, yet he/she would be remiss if fighting the case of a conservative Christian.

On the basis of the aforementioned issues, I strongly urge the court not to adopt this change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the information listed below.

Sincerely,

Johanna Kennedy
Montana Citizen
3234 Reimers Park Drive
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 690-3405

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CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA