

ORIGINAL

FILED

12/09/2016

Anderson, Diane

*Ed Smith*

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of  
Nancy Charbonneau Geertz <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Please oppose the proposed rule change 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I find it absurd that intelligent, powerful people such as yourselves would consider this proposed rule change. It is a blatant violation of the freedom of speech and of the press; not to mention a violation of the free exercise of religion.

Have we all lost our minds?! Let us retain a shred of dignity and not become the laughing stock of the world. This proposed rule change would be kin to thumbing our nose at God. God is God; he will not be mocked. Even the animals of the world are clear about who they are and how to procreate. God created mankind and told Adam and Eve to multiply, fill the earth and subdue it.

Even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers should not be disbarred for having it.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Nancy Charbonneau Geertz  
25 Willow Bend Dr.  
Billings, MT 59102  
[nancygeertz@ymail.com](mailto:nancygeertz@ymail.com)

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nancy Charbonneau Geertz  
25 Willow Bend Dr  
Billings, MT 59102-7322  
(406) 855-2218  
[nancygeertz@ymail.com](mailto:nancygeertz@ymail.com)

FILED

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of  
Evaleen Starkel <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:53 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Please judge wisely on 8.4 (g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This rule is a violation of the free exercise of religion.

This rule is a violation of the freedom of speech and of the press.

Even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding it.

A lawyer should not be subjected to this type of harassment, this is a free country where everyone is entitled to their personal beliefs and free to express those beliefs.

Evaleen Starkel  
20 spruce st  
Clancy MT 59634  
[Reddogringo@centurylink.net](mailto:Reddogringo@centurylink.net)

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Evaleen Starkel  
20 Spruce St  
Clancy, MT 59634-9524  
(406) 933-5970  
[reddogringo@centurylink.net](mailto:reddogringo@centurylink.net)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Levi Laforge <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:23 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Freedom of speech

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Freedom of speech for all please.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Levi Laforge  
1812 Virginia Ln  
Billings, MT 59102-3626  
(406) 696-7920  
[jchrist09879@gmail.com](mailto:jchrist09879@gmail.com)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Gary & Rosemarie Foltz <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:23 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Marriage

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Any person has the right to say marriage is between one man and one woman, whether they are a lawyer or any others business leader.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gary & Rosemarie Foltz  
5231 Haugan Dr  
Missoula, MT 59803-9652  
(406) 544-8818  
[gfolzt3979@msn.com](mailto:gfolzt3979@msn.com)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

**Anderson, Diane**

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Linda Evans <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 7:01 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Lawyers' Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

This rule would take away freedom of speech. A precedent would set in motion the reason to take away other freedoms-a dangerous path! The rule is an example of government overreach. Even if one doesn't agree with a belief, the attorney should not be disbarred for holding and stating it.  
As a concerned citizen, I know the rule should be rejected.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Evans  
PO Box 2620  
Bigfork, MT 59911-2620  
(602) 820-8681  
[lavajavamama@yahoo.com](mailto:lavajavamama@yahoo.com)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Howard Roberts <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 5:52 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Proposed Rule Change (Christian sensorship, State sponsored)

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

Proposed rule change 8.4(g) contradicts the First and Fourth Amendments to our Constitution. Please don't accept it into law.

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. Howard Roberts  
110 S Division  
Fairfield, MT 59436-9304  
(406) 868-1260  
[hroberts@3rivers.net](mailto:hroberts@3rivers.net)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of Michela Dorman <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 5:52 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Please Reject this rule

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I am writing this because I feel like this is taking away rights from Christians. I am currently enrolled in the School of Ministry at my church, I feel God has a call on my life to go out and preach his Gospel. It's our Great Commission, it's what we are all suppose to do if we say we are Christians. It hurts my heart to hear that lawyers can't defend a Christian due to their beliefs. It hurts to think that Christians might be influenced by this and think that they can't go for that law degree because if they defend what they believe in and what their fellow brothers and sisters believe in, they will lose what they have worked so hard for. It is a bit disturbing know that in the future, if this is passed, that I could be the one standing trial and no there to defend me due to fear of me. But i find great joy and comfort in knowing that the Almighty God has my back, He will defend me and He is always victorious.

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31 NIV I just pray that you would take into consideration these points, along with that this would be infringing on our constitutional rights of Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech.

Thank you for you time!

GOD BLESS!

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Michela Dorman  
1013 1st Ave Apt 1  
Laurel, MT 59044-2140  
[mfgraham530@gmail.com](mailto:mfgraham530@gmail.com)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

**From:** Montana Family Foundation <communications@montanafamily.org> on behalf of jeff  
beck <communications@montanafamily.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2016 5:22 PM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** defend christians' rights to practice law

Dec 7, 2016

Honorable Ed Smith  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Dear Justices Honorable Smith,

I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed rule change 8.4(g).

I oppose rule 8.4(g) as it is a violation of the free exercise of religion. The rule also is a violation of the freedom of speech and of the press. Even if you don't agree with a belief, lawyers ought not to be disbarred for holding it. I hope you'll reject it.

Sincerely,

Jeff Beck 161 1st rd ne Fairfield, MT  
59436

I hope you'll reject this rule change.

Sincerely,

Mr. jeff beck  
161 1st Rd NE  
Fairfield, MT 59436-9311  
[lcsimm@3rivers.net](mailto:lcsimm@3rivers.net)

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA



ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** jan <jan@rehbergranch.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2016 8:48 AM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed amendment of Rule 8.4

Date: December 9, 2016  
To: The Supreme Court of the State of Montana  
From: Janice L. Rehberg

I respectfully object to the proposed revisions to Rule 8.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. The language in the proposed paragraph (g) is too general in nature, would impose an unreasonable restriction on the private practice of law, result in unnecessary legal challenges, burden the bar and the court and chill an attorneys ability to exercise his or her judgment in determining what cases he or she should taken upon legitimate factors relevant to his or her particular practice. This rule change only opens the door for litigation and would have no positive impact on the legal system in Montana. Please reject the proposed amendment.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

DEC 09 2016

Anderson, Diane

From: Abe Madinger <abe\_madinger@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2016 9:50 AM  
To: Court, SCclerk  
Subject: DECLINE the adoption of the new rule 8.4 (g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys

*Ed Smith*CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Members of the Court,

In your order of 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. I hereby submit my request that you **DECLINE the adoption of this rule for the following five reasons.**

**1. The proposed new Rule 8.4 threatens the freedom of speech.**

By the adoption of this rule Montana Lawyers will find their verbal conduct severely limited, even in social activities in connection with the practice of law. This limitation on free speech is a dangerous precedent. No one expects free speech to be abolished in one fell swoop. It may happen as small groups of citizens, particularly those with less access to public appeal, have their rights limited. This incremental erosion is of great concern. Who will be next? A threat to the freedom of speech for one class is a threat to the freedom of speech for all.

Most importantly, from my perspective, this rule does not allow for sincerely held religious beliefs. Such beliefs may lead a lawyer to speak against certain behaviors associated with a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, without acting in a discriminatory manner. Lawyers with such religious beliefs may, by those beliefs, voluntarily limit their clientele. The adoption of this rule, threatens their very livelihood on the basis of their speech. If they speak their beliefs they may be disciplined.

**2. The proposed new Rule 8.4 threatens religious freedom.**

Montana lawyers may find themselves under the threat of discipline by associating themselves with religious organizations that hold certain behaviors, connected to a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, to be contrary to their belief system. This appears to be an overt threat to the religious freedom of Montana attorneys. In addition, this may bring about a chilling effect on access to legal advice if lawyers are reluctant to grant pro-bono work, or to sit on the governing boards of congregations or not-for-profit companies. The lack of access to such legal advice may create a serious threat to religious freedom in Montana.

**3. The proposed new Rule 8.4 threatens the the purpose of the court.**

The ABA Committee on Ethics' Memorandum of December 22, 2015, explaining the purpose of the proposed rule change favorably quotes the sentiment that there is "a need for a cultural shift in understanding the inherent integrity of people..." In other words, the rule change was not proposed for the sake of protecting clients, for protecting attorneys, or for protecting the court. It was proposed because the American Bar Association felt the need to promote a cultural shift. This type of social engineering is clearly outside the auspices of the court. Such an expansion of the purpose of the court threatens the very fiber of the judicial estate. Once the court determines that it is to be the arbiter of cultural values, instead of interpreting the law, it crosses a bridge that ends in the crumbling of the rule of law.

**4. The proposed new Rule 8.4 opens a threat of class warfare.**

Comment 4 to Rule 8.4(g) says that "Lawyers may engage in conduct undertaken to promote diversity and inclusion without violating this Rule by, for example, implementing initiatives aimed at recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing diverse employees..." If so interpreted, this rule will provide the foundation for exacerbating class warfare. The favored classes will enjoy the support of Montana attorneys. The disfavored classes will suffer. A lawyer would face discipline if he were to say, "I will hire you because you are a white male." A lawyer would be free to say, "I will hire you because you are a lesbian."

**5. The proposed new Rule 8.4 is a threat to common sense.**

The final sentence of the proposed rule states, "This paragraph does not preclude legitimate advice or advocacy consistent with these rules." Since Rule 8.4(g) is included in "these rules," the effect of this sentence is, "Rule 8.4 does not preclude legitimate advice consistent with rule 8.4." Rules for the professional conduct of attorneys ought not to contain circular reasoning. What protection could that sentence possibly give to a Montana lawyer?

On the basis of the above reasoning I urge the court NOT to adopt the proposed change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,

# ORIGINAL

Anderson, Diane

---

**From:** Patrick Stevenson <rerstar.ps@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2016 10:25 AM  
**To:** Court, SCclerk  
**Subject:** Rule 8.4

I am adamantly opposed to any infringement of first amendment right to freedom of speech, even speech that some may deem offensive.

Please forcefully reject any motion to limit the liberty of any citizen, including attorneys, to speak, consult, write or in any other way to communicate with others their opinions regarding any matter they choose.

Respectfully,  
Pastor Patrick Stevenson

**FILED**

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

# ORIGINAL

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court

December 7, 2016

P.O. Box 203003

Helena, MT 59620-3003

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons. This violates religious freedom, is government overreach, and is against freedom of speech.



Lee Werth

P.O. box 51337

Billings, Montana 59105

## FILED

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA



**VALLEY FAMILY  
CHIROPRACTIC, PC**

**ORIGINAL**

**STEVEN M. MAZUR, D.C.**

Telephone: (406) 549-2771

Physical Address: 1048 Burlington, Suite 100 • Missoula, MT 59801

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1176 • Lolo, MT 59847

December 7, 2016

Montana Supreme Court  
PO Box 203003  
Helena MT 59620-3003

**FILED**

**DEC 09 2016**

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct; Rule 8.4(g)

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Members of the Court,

It has come to my attention that the above referenced rule may lead to growth in soft discrimination against those with age-old and common religious views. This rule could lead to problems with groups receiving representation, being able to verbally express their views, and being grouped and denied privileges and rights all Montanans have a right to expect. It seems this rule could alienate certain peoples with certain views and all while trying to decrease that purported alienation within groups with other views.

Furthermore, the rule change has a stated goal of creating a "cultural shift." As we know, culture is fluid and ebbs and flows, or pendulum swings, throughout history. It seems unwise to create rules that favor certain actions and create animus against others. It seems wiser to create rules that do not favor or discriminate based on the whims of cultural actions, but on things a man cannot change such as his race, color, or other physical attributes.

As you can see, I am a religious man, and I have felt much discrimination because of my beliefs. I do not believe I am exceptional in this regard. I am sad to say that the pendulum has been swinging toward discrimination against the religious, especially Christians, for some time. You may assume this is paranoia, but the ability of the religious to hold fast to their teachings has been severely restricted in many nations, including, but not as severely, the United States. Our neighbor to the north, Canada, has imposed some strict fines for "thought crime". In Germany, there is legal discrimination against the "thought crime" of disbelieving in the Holocaust. While this belief may be foolish, should it be a crime? Legal rules that infringe beliefs are caustic. When will they affect "anti-vaxxers", "Creationists", and other derogatory groupings on the current "wrong side of history"? Or have they already, and we need more "cultural shift"?

Please decline the adoption of Rule 8.4 (g). Though mildly phrased, I believe it will cause more of what it is meant to avoid.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven M. Mazur

ORIGINAL

Montana Supreme Ct.  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

FILED

Dec. 6, 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct 8.4g

DEC 09 2016

Ed Smith

CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Members of the Court:

You have called for public comment of the new Rule 8.4g of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned citizen, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reasons:

I feel it infringes on my religious freedom by imposing laws that go against my beliefs. It limits my freedom of speech. This is an expansion of govt. overreach and it is just a start of further restrictions of my choices. I believe I still have the right to my convictions.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Christiansen  
60548 Hwy 212  
Charlo, Mt. 59824

# ORIGINAL

GLORIA H. ROARK  
10079 Miller Creek Road  
Missoula, Mt. 59803  
(406)251-5961

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Montana Supreme Court  
P. O. Box 203003  
Helena, Mt. 59620 – 3003

## FILED

DEC 09 2016

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

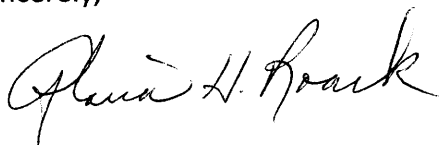
Honorable Members of the Court,

It is fitting that I am writing to you on this day, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the 75<sup>th</sup> year since Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. So many people have died in the service to guard and protect our freedoms since the founding of our country. Now in Mt. we have our freedoms at stake once more. I am asking that you decline the adoption of the proposed Rule 8.4 (g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Mt. Attorneys, for the following reasons:

1. It is a threat to the Freedom of Speech
2. It is a threat to Religious Freedom
3. It is a threat to the Purpose of the Court
4. It is a threat of Class Warfare
5. It is a threat to Common Sense

I urge the Court not to adopt the proposed change.

Sincerely,



Gloria H. Roark



# ORIGINAL

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

# FILED

December 7, 2016

DEC 09 2016

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct- Rule 8.4

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Members of the Court,

In your order of 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 freedom preservationist, I hereby submit my request that you decline the adoption of this rule for the following five reasons.

### **1. A Threat to Freedom of Speech.**

By the adoption of this rule Montana Lawyers will find their “verbal conduct”<sup>i</sup> severely limited, even in social activities “in connection with the practice of law.”<sup>ii</sup> This limitation on free speech is a dangerous precedent. No one expects free speech to be abolished in one fell swoop. It may happen as small groups of citizens, particularly those with less access to public appeal, have their rights limited. This incremental erosion is of great concern. Who will be next? A threat to the freedom of speech for one class is a threat to the freedom of speech for all.

Most importantly, from my perspective, this rule does not allow for sincerely held religious beliefs. Such beliefs may lead a lawyer to speak against certain behaviors associated with a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, without acting in a discriminatory manner. Lawyers with such religious beliefs may, by those beliefs, voluntarily limit their clientele. The adoption of this rule, threatens their very livelihood on the basis of their speech. If they speak their beliefs they may be disciplined.

### **2. A Threat to Religious Freedom.**

Montana lawyers may find themselves under the threat of discipline by associating themselves with religious organizations that hold certain behaviors, connected to a sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status, to be contrary to their belief system. This appears to be an overt threat to the religious freedom of Montana attorneys. In addition, this may bring about a chilling effect on access to legal advice if lawyers are reluctant to grant pro-bono work, or to sit on the governing boards of congregations or not-for-profit companies. The lack of access to such legal advice may create a serious threat to religious freedom in Montana.

### **3. A Threat to the Purpose of the Court.**

The ABA Committee on Ethics’ Memorandum of December 22, 2015, explaining the purpose of the proposed rule change favorably quotes the sentiment that there is “a need for a cultural shift in understanding the inherent integrity of people...” In other words, the rule change was not proposed for the sake of protecting clients, for protecting attorneys, or for protecting the court. It was proposed because the American Bar

Association felt the need to promote a cultural shift. This type of social engineering is clearly outside the auspices of the court. Such an expansion of the purpose of the court threatens the very fiber of the judicial estate. Once the court determines that it is to be the arbiter of cultural values, instead of interpreting the law, it crosses a bridge that ends in the crumbling of the rule of law.


#### **4. A Threat of Class Warfare.**

Comment 4 to Rule 8.4(g) says that "Lawyers may engage in conduct undertaken to promote diversity and inclusion without violating this Rule by, for example, implementing initiatives aimed at recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing diverse employees..." If so interpreted, this rule will provide the foundation for exacerbating class warfare. The favored classes will enjoy the support of Montana attorneys. The disfavored classes will suffer. A lawyer would face discipline if he were to say, "I will hire you because you are a white male." A lawyer would be free to say, "I will hire you because you are a lesbian."

#### **5. A Threat to Common Sense.**

The final sentence of the proposed rule states, "This paragraph does not preclude legitimate advice or advocacy consistent with these rules." Since Rule 8.4(g) is included in "these rules," the effect of this sentence is, "Rule 8.4 does not preclude legitimate advice consistent with rule 8.4." Rules for the professional conduct of attorneys ought not to contain circular reasoning. What protection could that sentence possibly give to a Montana lawyer?

On the basis of the above reasoning I urge the court not to adopt the proposed change to Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct.

Sincerely,  
  
Sally Peterson  
605 Evans Avenue  
Missoula, MT 59801

---

<sup>i</sup> From Comment [3] Whether the Montana Court adopts the comments attendant to Rule 8.4(g) is inconsequential. Montana Lawyers, seeking to interpret the rule will, as a matter of course, reference the comments of the ABA model rules.

<sup>ii</sup> From Comment [4]

# ORIGINAL

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 203003  
Helena, MT 59620-3003

Fax- 406-444-5705

## FILED

DEC 09 2016

**Honorable Members of the Court**

*Ed Smith*  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA

You have called for public comment of the proposed new Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

As a concerned citizen who was raised and educated in Montana, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule for the following reason:

When it comes to marriage and morality, Christians cannot be silent—not because we are morally superior, but because we know that God has a better plan for humanity than we would ever devise for ourselves.

Jesus pronounced : “ You shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). The previous verse needs to be included: “ If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples” (v. 31). Only when we choose to live by the word of God can we know the truth of God that sets us free.

**The free exercise clause of the First Amendment gives Christians the freedom to abide in God’s word!**

Sincerely,



Eleanor J Nofsinger  
1644 Goldrush  
Helena, MT 59601