

JACK L. RIVES
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December 12, 2012

Marc Firestone, Chairman
Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession
321 S. Plymouth Court
Chicago, IL 60604

Robert A. Clifford
Clifford Law Offices
120 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602

Re: Model Rules of Professional Conduct

Dear Marc and Bob:

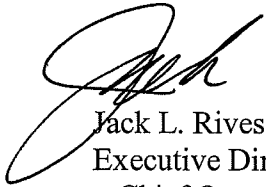
First, please accept my apologies for the delayed response to your letter of September 14, 2012 concerning the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Your letter was reviewed by the Center for Professional Responsibility's Counsel when it was received, and it was forwarded to the Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee for consideration during their October 10th Committee conference call. The matter was addressed briefly at that time, and it was determined to more fully consider the issues when the Committee met in-person on November 5 in Chicago.

At that meeting, the Standing Committee determined that the proposed amendments would be inappropriate for the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. The Committee concluded that the Model Rules 8.4 Comment [3] already clarifies "that any conduct that manifests by words or conduct bias or prejudice is prejudicial to the administration of justice and, therefore, is prohibited." The Committee did note that it might be an appropriate issue for consideration by the Diversity Center.

I'll be glad to discuss this in detail should you desire. My best wishes to you both.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack L. Rives', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jack L. Rives
Executive Director and
Chief Operating Officer

Cc: Laurel Bellows
James R. Silkenat
Robert M. Carlson
Paula Frederick
Jamie Gorelick
Michael Traynor
Jeanne Gray
Dennis Rendleman