



June 28, 2021

Chief Justice Charles T. Canady
Justice Ricky Poston
Justice Jorge Labarga
Justice Alan Lawson
Justice Carlos G. Muniz
Justice John D. Couriel
Justice Jamie R. Grosshans
Florida Supreme Court
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Honorable Members of the Florida Supreme Court,

The World Justice Project, a global multi-disciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law, urges your reconsideration of recent amendments to Florida Bar Rule 6-10.3(d) regarding recognition of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for educational programming developed under requirements that presenters reflect the diversity of the legal profession.

As part of WJP's work to advance the rule of law around the world, we publish an annual survey-based index that evaluates various factors of the rule of law, including the extent to which the justice system is biased. The *WJP Rule of Law Index*, viewable on our website at <https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020>, is drawn from surveys of individuals and practicing lawyers about how the justice system works in practice. It is the leading source of original rule of law data globally, and it is widely relied upon by public- and private-sector decision-makers, including the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the World Bank, the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In the *WJP Rule of Law Index*, the United States generally scores well, particularly with respect to the measures of regulatory enforcement, absence of corruption, and open government. Overall, in 2020, the US ranked 21st out of 128 countries. However, the data relating to bias in the justice system were more troubling. On measures of bias and impartiality in the civil justice and criminal justice systems, the United States ranked 115th and 88th, respectively, out of 128 countries.

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In light of these data, efforts to diversify the legal profession and the justice system are an urgent priority for the U.S. bar. It is a fundamental requirement of the rule of law that the judiciary and legal profession be representative of the entire community so that all people have confidence in and respect for dispute resolution processes. The requirement that CLE programming be reflective of the diversity of the legal profession is a valid and important step toward strengthening this dimension of the rule of law in the United States. We urge you to embrace this approach and to reconsider the recent amendments to Florida Bar Rule 6-10.3(d) accordingly.

Sincerely,



William C. Hubbard
Chair, WJP Board of Directors



William H. Neukom
Founder and CEO

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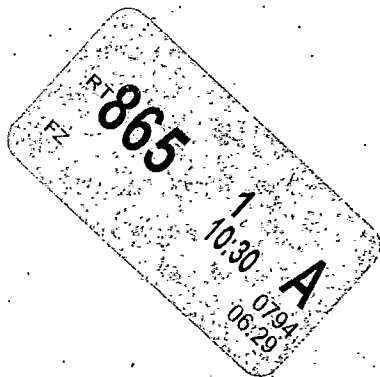
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