



# The Supreme Court of Texas

CHIEF JUSTICE  
WALLACE B. JEFFERSON

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June 23, 2009

## *Via Hand Delivery*

Mr. Harper Estes  
President, Board of Directors  
State Bar of Texas  
1414 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Roland Johnson  
President Elect, Board of Directors  
State Bar of Texas  
1414 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

JUN 23 2009

EXECUTIVE DEPT-SBOT

Dear Mr. Estes and Mr. Johnson:

The Court would like to commend the members of the State Bar's Task Force on Insurance Disclosure for their thorough and thoughtful study of the issue of whether Texas lawyers should be required to disclose the existence or non-existence of professional liability insurance. Under the leadership of its Chair, David Beck, the task force tackled an important and controversial issue. And as you know, the task force voted 6-5 to recommend that no insurance disclosure be required. The Grievance Oversight Committee also looked into this issue and made a recommendation to the Court in its 2009 Report, which concluded that Texas attorneys should be required to disclose if they do not have a professional liability insurance policy with limits acceptable to the Bar.

It is my understanding that the State Bar Board of Directors did not approve a final recommendation on the task force report for the Court to consider. Due to the importance of this issue to the citizens of Texas and to the legal profession, and because a decision could effect every member of the Bar, the Court believes it is important to ensure the full participation of the State Bar Board of Directors in its decision-making process. Therefore, the Court asks the Board of Directors to review the task force report and make a final recommendation to the Court on these issues before February 2010. The Court will deliberate on this matter upon receiving the Bar's recommendation.

I look forward to getting the Board of Directors' recommendation on this issue. Please let me know if the Court can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wallace B. Jefferson".

Wallace B. Jefferson  
Chief Justice