

**From:** Paul Michalski <pmichalski@integriosity.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 3:24 PM  
**To:** Rules Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Rule 8.4(7)

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Members of the Rules Committee,

In advance of your public hearing on May 10, 2021, I wish again to express my **strong opposition** to adoption of Proposed Rule 8.4(7).

I am in full agreement with, and endorse, the November 2, 2020 comment letter of the Christian Legal Society and believe the proposed rule threatens the First Amendment rights of Connecticut lawyers.

I also endorse the views expressed to the Rules Committee by the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Statewide Grievance Committee. Existing rules, including Rule 8.4(4) and its Commentary, already adequately address any issues of bias and prejudice that should result in discipline. Further, I share the concerns expressed by the Statewide Grievance Committee as to the clarity and scope of the Proposed Rule.

My opposition to the Proposed Rule is not, and your rejection of the Proposed Rule would not be, opposition to diversity, equity or inclusion. It is opposition to an unnecessary rule that, by its very nature, has a chilling effect on, and can be used to silence, speech that is out of favor. It is opposition to an unnecessary rule that can be coercive, even by its mere existence—even by its mere proposal. It is opposition to a vague and overly broad rule that can be used to regulate more than the practice of law.

I respectfully request that the Rules Committee of the Superior Court reject Proposed Rule 8.4(7).

Thank you.

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