

**From:** Rules Committee  
**To:** Geraldo Parrilla  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7)

**From:** Geraldo Parrilla <geraldoparrilla@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 6, 2020 1:16 PM  
**To:** Rules Committee <RulesCommittee@jud.ct.gov>  
**Subject:** Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7)

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Good Afternoon,

Attached please find my letter in support of the proposed amended rule to the Rules of Professional Conduct. Thank you for considering this matter and allowing folks to offer their thoughts / feedback.

Best,  
Geraldo

November 6, 2020

Hon. Andrew J. McDonald  
Rules Committee of the Superior Court  
State of Connecticut  
P.O. Box 150474  
Hartford, CT 06115

Re: Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7) – Addressing Harassment & Discrimination by Lawyers

Dear Justice McDonald:

My name is Geraldo Parrilla, Vice President of the Crawford Black Bar Association, and I write in my individual capacity to urge the adoption of the Connecticut Bar Association's Proposed Amendment to Rule 8.4(7) of the Rules of Professional Conduct modeled after Rule 8.4(g) of the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

One of the central goals of the Crawford Black Bar Association is to address the various legal, political, and social issues affecting members of the Black community. As political and civil unrest mounts and race relations continue to deteriorate, we stand at a critical juncture in our nation's history. We can choose to uphold fundamental values of justice and equity, or we can choose to remain complicit in our nation's degradation. As legal scholars, commissioners of the court, and judges, we are held to a higher standard than other members of the public. To that end, we have an obligation to behave ethically in *all* of our interactions with the Court, our colleagues, our clients, and the public at large. To the extent that the CBA Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7) brings greater clarity to, and consistency with, Connecticut's substantive law on protected classes, the adoption of this Rule aligns directly with Crawford's mission. More importantly, it serves as a profound step towards protecting fundamental values that have been under siege for years.

As you are likely aware, the CBA Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7) is substantially similar to ABA Model Rule 8.4(g), but has been amended to ensure consistency with Connecticut's substantive law on protected classes. These amendments establish with specificity the appropriate standard of ethical conduct in the practice of law in Connecticut. We would be remiss not to seize this opportunity to further deter acts of discrimination and harassment in our profession. Moreover, these amendments help to ensure that even the most marginalized and underrepresented groups are afforded adequate and competent legal representation.

I support strongly the adoption of Proposed Amended Rule 8.4(7) and the Amended Commentary, and I respectfully request that the Rules Committee follow the lead of several other neighboring states in upholding fundamental values of justice and equity.

Very truly yours,

Geraldo E. Parrilla