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July 24, 2014

The Florida Supreme Court
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1927

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rule 1-7.3 Membership Fees

Dear Honorable Members of the Court:

I object to this mandatory proposal as it is a slippery slope the profession can ill-afford. If you allow this mandatory contribution, what will stop another group of petitioners from placing their other favorite charities on our fee form? Also, the Court must ensure that no one has a monetary stake in the charity. Every single petitioner along with their family members and every Florida licensed attorney must be investigated to ensure no monetary or other in-kind gain through the charity. Each person must provide a full financial disclosure, make it part of the public record and allow the press to investigate and open to public scrutiny. Plus, there must be a background search on any proposed organization to ensure that the money goes to the needy. The press has exposed a number of so-called "charities" as merely fronts with the needy receiving little to no benefits and officer/directors and employees receiving the bulk of the donations. A breach of these duties will compel an attorney or group of attorneys to sue the bar. Does the Court want to involve itself in this potential quagmire and open the bar to potential public derision? No good deed goes unpunished.

Further, there will be expenses to administer and collect the funds. Thus, what percentage of the \$100 or any other amount will go to administration? What a nightmare and another accounting headache.

Please do not allow this amendment to pass as conceived. Thank you for your consideration and I waive participation in oral argument.

Respectfully Submitted,
/s/ signed

CHARLES SAMAHA

Certificate of Service: I certify a copy of this letter was emailed to John F. Harkness, Jr., jharkness@flabar.org and Raoul G. Cantero, Esq., rcantero@whitecase.com this 17th day of July, 2014.