

DEC 17 2010

FILED

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

ADM10-8002
(formerly C9-81-1206)

In re Petition of the Minnesota State Bar
Association to Amend the Rules on Lawyer
Registration to Create an Emeritus Attorney
Category Exempt from the Lawyer Registration Fee.

ORDER

The Minnesota State Bar Association filed a petition requesting amendment of the Rules of Lawyer Registration that would create a category of Emeritus Attorney for lawyers who practice law solely to provide pro bono publico services through certified legal services organizations and would exempt Emeritus Attorneys from paying lawyer registration fees. At our request, the administrators of the Continuing Legal Education, Lawyer Professional Responsibility, and Lawyer Registration programs reviewed the proposal. All three administrators raised concerns about the proposal as submitted, as did the chair of the Continuing Legal Education Board. Based on those concerns, we conclude that it would be premature to adopt an Emeritus Attorney program as proposed at this time. But the proposal seeks to address a serious and persistent problem of lack of adequate legal services for disadvantaged Minnesotans and with further cooperative planning could become a viable means to make more services available.

Based upon all the files, records and proceedings herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the petition of the Minnesota State Bar Association

for amendment of the Rules of Lawyer Registration to create a category of Emeritus Attorney for lawyers who practice law solely to provide pro bono publico services through certified legal services organizations and exempting Emeritus Attorneys from paying lawyer registration fees is denied at this time. We encourage the Bar Association to work in concert with the Board of Continuing Legal Education, the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board, and the Clerk of Appellate Courts to develop an Emeritus Attorney proposal that addresses concerns raised by those regulators.

Dated: December 17, 2010

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorie S. Gildea", is written over a horizontal line.

Lorie S. Gildea
Chief Justice