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STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT
FILED
FEB 27 1981
JOHN McCARTHY
CLERK

In re: Evaluation of the Minnesota
Lawyer Disciplinary System by the
American Bar Association Standing
Committee on Professional Discipline.

ORDER

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Professional Discipline, hereinafter referred to as the Standing Committee, has offered to send a team of individuals experienced in the field of lawyer discipline to conduct an on-site evaluation of the Minnesota Disciplinary System; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to this Court's prior directions, the Director of Lawyers Professional Responsibility with the approval of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board has made arrangements with the Standing Committee for the evaluation to be conducted; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to grant access to files, records and proceedings which are otherwise confidential pursuant to Rule 20, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, in order that the evaluation be effective, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

The District Ethics Committees, Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board and the Director shall grant access to the files, records and proceedings which are otherwise confidential pursuant to Rule 20, Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and to similar files and records from the period before the present Rule became effective to the evaluation team designated by the Standing Committee to conduct the evaluation.

The Standing Committee and the evaluation team shall keep strictly confidential all names and other specific information concerning individuals disclosed by the files, records and proceedings examined in the course of the evaluation which could reasonably be used to identify the individuals involved and shall not disclose by any report or otherwise names or identifying information not already a matter of public record. Before the publication of any report containing any specific data obtained from the files, records and proceedings the report shall be submitted to the Director of Lawyers Professional Responsibility for the purpose of determining whether the report contains any confidential names or identifying information not already a matter of public record. The Director will, within a reasonable time after the submission, notify the evaluation team if any confidential names or identifying information is disclosed in which case the names or information shall be removed before publication. The conclusions derived from the data will be the sole responsibility of the evaluation team and will not be attributed to the Board, the Director, or this Court.

Dated: Feb 25, 1981.

By the Court:


