

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

In re Petition for Permission to Examine Files, Records, and Proceedings in Connection with a Study of the Operation of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board. (Old File 46994)

ORDER

A-8

WHEREAS a petition has been filed by the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board ("Board") and the William Mitchell College of Law, a law school approved by the American Bar Association ("Law School") asking this court to direct the District Ethics Committees, the Board, and the Board's Administrative Director to grant to the Law School access to files, records and proceedings which are confidential pursuant to Rule 20 of the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility;

WHEREAS it is necessary to grant that access in order to make a study of the operation of the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board;

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the public and the bar that the proposed study be made,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. Each of the District Ethics Committees, the Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board and the Administrative Director are directed to grant access to the files, records and proceedings confidential pursuant to Rule 20 of the Rules on Lawyers Professional Responsibility, and similar files and records from the period before the present rule became effective, to the Project Director appointed by William Mitchell College of Law and his research assistants for the purpose of the study on the following conditions.

2. The Law School, the Project Director, and his research assistants are ordered to keep strictly confidential all names and other specific information concerning individuals disclosed by the files, records, and proceedings examined in the course of the study which could reasonably be used to identify the individuals involved and not to 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 will be submitted to the Board's Administrative Director for the purpose of determining whether the report contains any confidential names or identifying information not already a matter of public record. The Administrative Director will, within a reasonable length of time after the submission, notify the Project Director if any confidential names or identifying information is disclosed, in which the case the names or information shall be removed before publication. The conclusions derived from the data will be the sole responsibility of the Project Director and will not be attributed to the Board, the Administrative Director or this Court.

3. The Project Director will not contact any complainant or respondent in connection with the study.

Dated: Feb 22, 1982

BY THE COURT



Chief Justice

SUPREME COURT

FILED

FEB 24 1982

JOHN McCARTHY

CLERK