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Dear _____:

At the urging of the Tennessee Bar Association, our Tennessee Supreme Court in 2002 dramatically revised the ethics rules governing the conduct of Tennessee lawyers, the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct.

Following up on that effort, for the last several years, the TBA has engaged in an effort to bring the Rules completely current, borrowing the best from the current ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, maintaining some existing Tennessee variations, and crafting some possible new rules to cover topics not previously addressed in many states' ethics rules. The laboring oar in this effort has been borne by our Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

That committee has now produced a full draft of revisions that it is considering proposing to the TBA for it, in turn, to propose to the Tennessee Supreme Court for adoption. By this letter, we seek your comments on any and all aspects of these proposed revisions.

Attached to this memo is a brief memo from Lucian Pera, the chair of our committee, describing some of the most important changes being considered. Also attached is a complete redlined version of the current Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct, showing all the changes being considered, in complete detail. Both these documents are also available on a webpage the TBA has set up to host materials about these proposed changes, at www.tba.org/committees/Conduct/documents.html.

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We anticipate that other helpful materials may soon be added there, including a redline comparing the proposed Tennessee ethics rules to the current ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Comments should be sent to the ethics committee, in care of its chair, Lucian Pera, at lucian.pera@arlaw.com. In order to be of most help to the committee and the TBA, they should be received by August 15, 2008.

Thanks in advance for your comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George T. Lewis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George T. Lewis
President