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ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
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March 20, 2017

AOKT-519

Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court
c/o Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

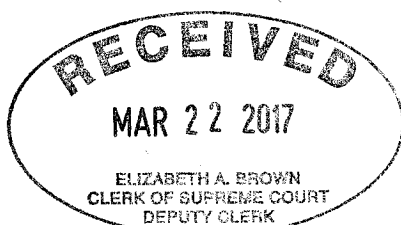
Dear Chief Justice Cherry and Honorable Justices,

You have invited comments regarding the State Bar Board of Governors' proposed amendments to Supreme Court Rule 81. I offer mine from the unique perspective of having served both as executive director of the State Bar of Nevada from 1983 to 1989 and as a member of the Board of Governors from 1995 to 2001. I was bar president in the 1999/2000 term. I served on the Judicial Selection Commission for 12 years and currently am a Nevada Bar Foundation board member and a member of the Moral Character and Fitness Committee. I understand this state bar organization.


The rationale for amendment of SCR 81 that the Board of Governors has set forth in its Petition filed September 27, 2016, is solidly on point. In addition, I suggest this specifically with respect to the proposed extension of lifetime limit of service on the board from 8 years to 12, or in the case of a member in the officer track, to 15 years. First, it is infrequent that a bar association can boast the administrative oversight of an executive director with the longevity and institutional knowledge of a Kim Farmer. What can be better than to pair such administrative glue with board members and board officers who have a history of long term leadership in the bar? Such a team cannot help but provide excellent mentorship to board staff and to newly elected board members as well as important continuity in the organization and overall representation of the members of our bar. Also with tenure among staff and board there should never be an uneducated reaction to knotty issues that arise at the decision-making level. It is critical for board members to have the time in the organization to absorb knowledge from every source and share it as they advance and new leadership is elected.

I don't mention my second observation lightly. In my experience, often is not until mid-career on the board that an individual feels comfortable enough to make the commitment to enter the officer rotation. Extension of the existing term limitation from 8 to 12 years gives a fledgling member an opportunity to become immersed in bar governance. That member can integrate bar leadership experience with real life interest and time constraints, and decide whether he or she wishes to pursue a higher leadership position. Extending the number of years of service permits that person up to 12 years to put together the resources necessary to contribute at a higher level to our bar's future.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Board of Governors' proposed amendment of SCR 81.



Sincerely,


Ann Bersi

cc: Bryan K. Scott, Esq., President, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada

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