

## MEMORANDUM

T0: California State Bar Board of Governors Planning, Program Development, and Budget Committee

FROM: State Bar Task Force on Sustainable Law Practice

DATE: June 4, 2008

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Long Range Strategy

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Our Task Force has reviewed the draft Long Range Strategy of the State Bar of California and we would like to provide the following comments.

As you likely know, Assembly Bill 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 mandates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California to 1990 levels by the year 2020. Given California's position as a leader in climate change regulation and this legal mandate to implement significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the State Bar should encourage its members to be part of the solution by being mindful of the environment and to practicing law in a sustainable way. Although the State Bar certainly has acknowledged the importance of this issue by creating our Task Force on Sustainable Law Practice, the addition of sustainability concepts to the "Mission of the State Bar," the "Vision of the State Bar," and the "Values of the State Bar" also will provide important leadership on the subject.

In the section entitled "Mission of the State Bar," we propose the following change to the mission statement:

The purpose of the State Bar of California is to ensure that the people of California are served by the legal profession in an environmentally sustainable manner consistent with the highest standards of professional competence, care, and ethical conduct; to carry out such additional programs as may be required by law or by rule of court; and to contribute generally to the science of jurisprudence and the administration of justice to the extent and in a manner consistent with the First Amendment rights of its members.

In the section entitled "Vision of the State Bar," we propose the addition of the following bullet point:

A legal profession that recognizes that environmental protection, climate change, and related environmental and social issues are important global and local matters, and that recognizes that each member of the State Bar can take steps to reduce the environmental impacts of law practice.

In the section entitled “Values of the State Bar,” we propose the addition of a new Paragraph 6 as follows:

6. The State Bar will encourage and challenge its members and others to incorporate environmental sustainability into their law practices by the adoption and implementation of a law office sustainability policy. In addition, the State Bar will strive to mitigate environmental impact by incorporating environmentally responsible practices into all of its activities, to the fullest extent practicable, including making meetings and events more sustainable, encouraging the Sections to do the same, and by mandating resource conservation and waste stream reduction within the State Bar’s facilities and operations.

We also recommend that the draft Long Range Strategy sections under “State Bar Goals by Functional Areas” be revised to incorporate specific sustainability goals related to the sustainability mission, vision and values outlined above. Later this month our Task Force will recommend various steps that the State Bar should take to encourage sustainability in law practice, and perhaps these steps might be incorporated into the final goals section of the Long Range Strategy.

Thank you for your consideration of these proposed changes.