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November 19, 2008

Members of the Board of Governors
State Bar of California
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94015

Re: **NOVEMBER 700** "Find a Lawyer" Proposal

Ladies and Gentlemen:

For reasons that we have discussed with the members of the Board of Governors from District 7, we strongly oppose the State Bar's proposal to create a searchable, online directory of attorneys admitted to practice law in California.

Appropriate mechanisms already exist to help the public find lawyers in California. One of them is the network of lawyer referral services, which the State Bar itself has historically fostered and is statutorily mandated to regulate and certify. Those certified lawyer referral services embody numerous public protections that are completely absent from the proposed online directory.

As can be seen from the attached comparison, the public protection aspects of the proposed "Find a Lawyer" project have not been adequately addressed.

We sincerely hope you will not approve this flawed proposal.

Sincerely yours,


Danette E. Meyers
President

cc: Judy Johnson
Members of the Board of Trustees

**COMPARISON
STATE BAR CERTIFIED LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES
AND PROPOSED ONLINE DIRECTORY**

Factor	Lawyer Referral Services	Proposed Online Directory
Help the public identify the correct area of legal practice for which an attorney is needed	Yes	No
Refer the public to legal services programs and other providers and entities, as appropriate	Yes	No
Verify that attorneys actually have experience in the designated areas of practice	Yes	No
Require that attorneys carry malpractice insurance	Yes	No (Information about malpractice insurance coverage is not collected)
Require that attorneys not be involved in the discipline system	Yes	No
Ability to remove attorneys for cause	Yes	No
Funds generated for public service programs, e.g., legal services, diversity, etc.	\$ 1 million + annually	None
Regulated by the State Bar	Yes	No