

January 15, 2009

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\*Deceased

Holly J. Fujie, Esq.  
President  
State Bar of California  
180 Howard St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Re: 2009 State Bar Annual Meeting (Convention) Site**

Dear Ms. Fujie:

As President of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, with a membership of approximately 4,000 attorneys, I am writing on behalf of our leadership and membership to express our concern about the State Bar's selection of the Manchester Hyatt in San Diego as the location for the 2009 State Bar Convention.

As you are aware, the Beverly Hills Bar Association views the right of same sex partners to marry as an important issue of civil rights in the continuum of rights gained by American minorities since the Declaration of Independence.

Furthermore, at the last State Bar Conference held in Monterey, the CDCBA passed a resolution expressing its support for equal marriage rights and its condemnation of Proposition 8. The BHBA delegation also voted in favor of that CDCBA resolution. We understand that Doug Manchester, owner of the Manchester Financial Group which owns the Manchester Hyatt in San Diego and one other major hotel there, made at least a \$125,000 financial contribution to the "Yes on 8" campaign. We confirmed that Mr. Manchester's contribution is on the list of pro Proposition 8 donors on the Californians Against Hate website which was also confirmed by the Met News. Our leaders are dismayed to learn that the State Bar Conference will be held at a location whose ownership - despite supporting the repudiation of basic human rights - would profit from our members. The very idea of that would certainly cause pain to many of our members.

We will make the Manchester Hyatt's owner's position known to our membership so each member may make their own personal decision. Speaking for myself, I will not be staying at that hotel, nor will I purchase anything that might benefit it. We would prefer that none of our members stay at the Manchester Hyatt, and we would prefer that they not attend any bar related event, reception, meeting or MCLE courses held there. In fact, we are concerned that many of our members will boycott both the CDCBA and the State Bar Convention entirely if they are held at the Manchester Hyatt. This would be a

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devastating blow to the hard work our Resolutions Committee has undertaken all year, and could adversely impact the CDCBA and the State Bar.

On behalf of the leadership and members of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, I respectfully urge the State Bar to change its convention site for 2009 to a more neutral venue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nancy Knapfer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Knapfer  
President

cc: Holly Fujie, c/o Buchalter Nemer  
Marc Poster  
Steve Raucher  
Larry Jacobson  
John Rubiner  
Sean Novak  
Sean O'Brien  
Marc Sallus  
Marc Staenberg