ABA Model Rule 8.4(g): Straddling the line between Attorney misconduct and free speech rights

Speakers: Hon. Kevin Smith, Sedgwick County, Kansas; Suzanne Valdez, University of Kansas; Shawn Leisinger, Washburn Law School; Jack Scott McInteer, Depew Gillen Rathbun & McInteer; Tyson Langhofer, Alliance Defending Freedom; Michael Fielding, Husch Blackwell.

Our panel comprised of legal scholars and experts in the fields of professional ethics, Constitutional Law, and First Amendment litigation will present the legal issues ABA’s proposed Model Rule 8.4(g) will raise, as well as the rule’s practical impact on the practice of law in Kansas. After presenting opening statements, the panelists will respond to their colleagues opening statements, then take questions from the attendees.

The purpose of this panel is to discuss (1) whether the current rules ban illegal harassment and discrimination in the practice of law, (2) whether additional measures are needed, either through a moderated approach or adoption of Model Rule 8.4(g), and (3) how the proposed rule will impact attorneys’ First Amendment freedoms of speech, religion, and association. The panelists will also discuss the rule’s impact on attorneys’ duty to zealously represent clients.

Continued
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