

June 21, 2019

Hunter Abell
Williams Kastner and Gibbs

RE: Listening Tour WSBA June 17, 2019; Nectar

Dear Mr. Abell:

It was a pleasure to meet you the other day, albeit limited. I appreciate the time the Bar is taking to bring this information and discussion to the local members.

Several thoughts come to mind when listening to the others who are far more informed on the subject than I am. It seems to me, and several attorneys with whom I work (County Prosecutor's Office), that the WSBA has endeavored to become more to the Bar members than is necessary or advisable. At the meeting, when it was said that the Bar's number one mission is to serve the public with the secondary purpose of serving its membership, I wanted to stop there and truly examine that statement, both in meaning and execution.

The WSBA through time has evolved into something other than its original intended purpose: governing its membership. The Bar has become an allegory for big government. I'm not saying that the services provided are not valuable, but this is the perfect time to get a reality check. Bar dues do not come without some concern, especially from the newer attorneys and those in public jobs. I support the separation of the sections from the governing portion of the Bar, with those sections being self-supporting.

Whether or not the pending cases post *Janus* require a substantial change in the operation of the Bar, it is a good opportunity to evaluate the Bar's ultimate use and purpose. For this I applaud the Bar's leadership. All of this brought to mind the Country of New Zealand. While NZ may be lacking in some areas, they have come closer to the mark in my opinion about the role of government. Several years ago, after discerning they didn't have the money to be everything to everyone, they boiled down the role of government to essential services. This seems to be close to the conversation spurred by the *Janus* decision. Or at least I hope for that direction.

I appreciate your time. Please call or contact me with any thoughts you may wish to share or questions you may have.

Debby Kurbitz