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To whom it may concern,

I'd like to introduce myself. I am a former trustee of the Houston Independent School District. I served as the board president in 1993 and 1996. I currently serve on numerous boards in the Houston community including chair of the board of Pro-Vision Academy, a charter school serving disadvantaged youth in the Sunnyside area.

Although I am not an attorney, I am concerned about our judicial process. I have long held the belief that although our courts are not perfect, they are the best in the world. The news informs us that sometimes mistakes are made. There have been a number of long-term convicts released recently because of retested physical evidence. However, I have always believed that the system works well most of the time.

The case of disbarment of Robert Bennett shakes my faith in that system. I am sure you are aware of the basic facts of the case:

- A fee dispute with an attorney should not result in a disbarment;
- The judge who presided has been totally discredited and removed from the bench (on the same site read about former Juvenile Judge Carmen Kelsey;
- No expert or fact witness or former client has ever testified against Bennett;
- The Court would not allow Bennett's experts to testify;
- The Commission for Lawyer Discipline recommended a one year probated sentence and the Court decided on Disbarment without any evidence being presented.

Surely, the State Bar of Texas will review this injustice and right the wrong that was done by the court. It will be a loss to our state to prevent Bob Bennett from continuing his service to the people of Texas. I have known Bob and his family for about 30 years. I know him to be a fine lawyer and someone who is deeply committed to social justice. He has been a leader in his church and in the community. I was fortunate to be a part of a leadership team led by Bob to visit Turkey. The purpose was to build relationships with the Muslim community there and here in Houston. He has continued in his role as a bridge builder. I urge you to carefully consider this case and do the right thing, which I believe is to restore Bob to his profession.

Sincerely,

/s/

Paula Arnold

Director of Communications

Texas Annual Conference of

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