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Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 09:30 PM
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Subject: In Support of Robert S. Bennett, Cause No. 2013-56866

Dear Ms. Acevedo,

I'm writing on behalf of my cousin, Bob Bennett. There are elements of this case against Bob that are fundamentally wrong. Although I don't think Bob is blameless in this matter, I also believe disbarment is far too extreme a punishment.

Unlike a lot of the lawyers who are chiming in on Bob's case, I think Bob was wrong to appeal the decision of the arbitration panel. After all, he signed an agreement with Mr. Land saying that if they got into a dispute, they would submit it to an arbitration panel whose decision would be "binding, conclusive and non-appealable." To a non-lawyer like me, it seems like Bob crossed the line by appealing. Even though I love Bob like a brother, it's clear he could have saved everybody a lot of time and aggravation if he had just complied with the arbitration ruling and refunded Mr. Land's money back in 2012.

But even if Bob erred in his judgment, he certainly doesn't deserve to be disbarred. The prosecution asked for a maximum penalty of two years of probation. Yet Bob received the same punishment as Charles Sebesta, who knowingly sent an innocent man to death row. This complaint against Bob is his only reprimand in a career of over 40 years. Disbarment is definitely not an appropriate response to a first offense.

Bob has devoted his career to righting wrongs and fighting for justice. He has done more than his fair share of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable. Of thousands of lawyers in Houston, he was the one who devoted hundreds of pro-bono hours to freeing Anthony Graves, who was wrongly imprisoned for 18 years. Clearly, the cause of justice is not served by disbaring Bob Bennett. I hope the Commission will reverse this ruling, and substitute a lesser penalty more in line with the offense.

Kevin Bennett