

September 3, 2015

Robert "Andrew" Bennett
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Linda Acevedo, Esq.
Chief Disciplinary Counsel, Commission for Lawyer Discipline
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State Bar of Texas
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Austin, Texas 78711-2487

RE: Court of Appeals Number: 14-14-00470-CV
Trial Court Case Number: 2013-56866
Style: Robert S. Bennett v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline

Dear Ms. Acevedo,

I am writing on behalf of Robert S. Bennett as a character reference.

He is my father...but he was also my attorney once for a legal matter in my teenage years.

When I was 17, I had a small run-in with the Rice University Police Department. After getting off from a dinner shift of waiting tables, I excitedly accepted an invitation by some older, college-aged coworkers to go to a party at Rice. One thing led to another, and about 30 hours later my father came to pick me up from HPD.

He had been up all night waiting for me to be released. I braced for the worst as I got into his car, but he calmly just looked at me and said:

"I imagine you've had a rough night. Let's go get some pancakes."

My father was by no means a pushover growing up - quite the opposite really. Disciplinary actions were routinely doled out to his only son who had penchant for pushing the buttons of his teachers, coaches, and ministers.

His justice was swift in our household, but so was his mercy.

Ms. Acevdo, this last year has been one long night in jail for my father. I would like to loudly echo all the other letters of support to implore mercy for his situation. He has served his time and deserves another chance at the profession that he loves and respects so much.

One more anecdote on Bob Bennett's joy and heart for practicing law:

Nearly every summer he would host German law students at his firm. He loved hosting these students! He would take them to eat BBQ, Tex-Mex, and take them to the Houston Rodeo. They would shadow him to the courthouse where they would be tickled to see real cowboy attorneys and sheriffs who wore boots to court. These students adored my father, and in turn, Texas. Many of them still keep in touch.

I bring up this example to illustrate my father's heart for the outsider. He gives everyone a chance and is not afraid to get out of his comfort zone. This was reflected in his clients and his friendships, and is a quality I truly admire in my father.

Lastly, my father would often joke, "As long as there is sin in the world, there will be a need for preachers and lawyers."

As these 130+ letters demonstrate, there is a need for more Bob Bennett's in the world and in the legal community of Texas. Please reconsider this ruling and restore his law license.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bennett