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To: [equity](#)
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In Nova Scotia, lawyers enjoy the privilege of membership in a self-governing profession. In exchange, at a minimum, we must be seen to defend our shared commitment to the rule of law and certain basic rights including, among other things, equality and freedom from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Trinity Western University's community covenant at least implies an institutional intolerance towards activities which otherwise deserve protection under our laws.

To the extent the institutional views of this University are justified as an expression of religious freedom, they must be balanced against (and perhaps give way to) other protected values.

I do not claim to have the solution other than to say that:

1. these competing values must be reconciled; and
2. the need for balance and proportionality must be actively pursued.

The need for reconciliation and balance may prove difficult. Nevertheless, I hope that the Barristers' Society will take a leadership role and will neither shy away from the challenge nor leave the matter to be determined by the invisible forces of competing societal pressures.

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