

February 28, 2014

By E-Mail: equity@nsbs.org

Nova Scotia Barristers' Society
Cogswell Tower
800 – 2000 Barrington Street
Halifax, NS B3J 3K1

Council:

Re: Trinity Western University Law School

I read summaries of various submissions made to the Council on this topic. The issue being considered raises points of great importance and I wish to provide my comments for consideration.

During my 40+ year career I have represented a large number of people. I also have worked with a wide variety of opposing counsel. Normally I had no idea what the personal beliefs of these clients and opposing counsel were. Why would I, unless those beliefs were a necessary component of the matter I was dealing with. There have been occasions when I have represented clients, or had dealings with opposing counsel, whose personal beliefs I considered to be outrageous. I believed fervently, however, that they were entitled to have me, or any other practising lawyer, represent them, or deal with them professionally, to the best of my ability.

If we reach the point as lawyers where we will only represent those people, or deal with opposing counsel, who have the "correct beliefs", we will have abandoned the very foundation upon which our profession is built. I do not consider there is any such thing as a "correct belief". If we are only to deal with persons who have such beliefs, how would we be different from other societies who have prohibited certain beliefs, and indeed in some cases have exterminated those who do not adhere to the current "correct beliefs". In my opinion the practice of law at times requires that we be prepared to defend the right of anyone to have a belief that is different than our own, or even the general belief of our society.

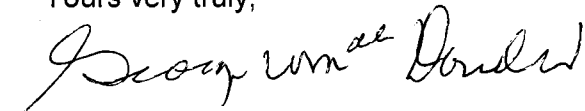
I firmly believe that anyone who obtains a law degree from an institution that teaches its students the laws which govern our country should be entitled to practice law anywhere in

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Canada. I urge the Council to confirm that basic right and reject any suggestion that a graduate of an accredited law school, no matter what personal beliefs they may have, is not entitled to practice law in this Province

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George W. MacDonald Q.C.

GWMacD/fm