


Board of Governors Update



Dear Colleague,

At the core of our legal system and profession is the notion that everyone is equal under the law – regardless of popularity or wealth or status – and that everyone should have access to an impartial court of law to bring their legal argument, and a lawyer to advocate on their behalf within the standards of professional conduct.

This month, an Executive Order was issued that seeks to punish the law firm Perkins Coie for doing what lawyers do: representing their clients within the bounds of the law. This Executive Order hits close to home for the Oregon State Bar, negatively impacting the firm's more than 80 Oregon State Bar members. It also signals to other firms that they too may be targeted by the Executive Branch if they represent clients who challenge federal actions.

Ultimately, it is not just one law firm or just the whole legal profession placed at risk by this action; it is also the public's ability to get legal help when faced with federal government action against them.

I am proud to be in community with the Oregon lawyers who challenge government action, whatever their politics, and including those who have taken issue with the OSB. I know it sometimes comes at great cost. I urge all Oregon lawyers to stand up and support one another during these types of challenges to our legal system and profession. I am concerned, the Board of Governors is concerned, and all lawyers should be concerned. For without lawyers willing to hold the government accountable to its laws, there would be no access to justice for the public.

Kind regards,

Myah Kehoe, President
Oregon State Bar

This statement is made by the President of the OSB, not on behalf of all individual members of the OSB.