

February 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I was recently filing some documents in an Alabama Probate Court office when the clerk took a telephone call. The caller inquired if three people could be married. The caller was already married and asked if it was legal for a third person to marry the two of them. The clerk explained polygamy is not permitted in Alabama, but she did not know about other states.

Actually, SCOTUS upheld laws against polygamy. We occasionally hear of Mormon sects having issues with their polygamous marriages. It is not a widespread practice. However, if same-sex marriage is legal, then why would polygamy not be legal? As we have opined previously, even polygamy is more natural than same-sex marriage. While the probate clerk was very surprised at the question, I was not surprised at all that it was being asked. Just as I was not surprised to see the LGBTQ+ attack on the Hallmark Channel for pulling a lesbian wedding ad, then rescinding its decision.

Also, did you see another sign of the times? The New York City Bar Association (an organization that regulates lawyers) sent a letter to Congress demanding it investigate Attorney General William Barr for praising Judeo-Christian values in a speech at the University of Notre Dame. The bar association said that because he praised one religion, he rejected other religions and is biased against them. Presumably, Mr. Barr's recognition of our Judeo-Christian heritage disqualifies him from public office.

This is nothing new. Other lawyer regulatory bodies have suggested that lawyers must render legal services to any person, regardless of religious beliefs, that is the religious beliefs of the lawyer or the client. Model Rule 8.4 (g) of the American Bar Association states a lawyer must not harass or discriminate on basis of a number of things, including sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status, implying broad application. Therefore, is a lawyer required to represent a person in a same-sex divorce? Is a lawyer required to represent a Muslim man in a divorce case who insists on enforcement of Sharia law against his wife? If these things are true, is the work done by SLI lawyers subject to discipline because we take conservative Judeo-Christian positions on legal and political issues?

This month's Educational Update takes a position on the sanctity of life which is also probably disagreeable with some of these legal organizations. Thank you for your support of our efforts on these very important issues of truth in our culture.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston