

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Brittany Calame](#); [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2016 8:36:48 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:57 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: STATE BAR TEXAS

First Name: JoAnne

Last Name: Musick

Title: President

Organization you are affiliated with: Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association

City: Houston

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: Like our brethren at TCDLA, HCCLA (a local bar organization of approximately 800 members) shares concern over the recently released report.

First, there is a concern in having the Supreme Court in charge of all rule changes. Most members of the Supreme Court have engaged in civil practices or civil litigation. Rarely have they concerned themselves with the very different criminal law practice. The Court of Criminal Appeals (a court equal to the Supreme Court) would have a better understanding of the needs and roles of attorneys engaged in criminal practices. Additionally, the same is true of attorney discipline. Often, corporate lawyers, civil defense lawyers, and others have no real experience with the way in which criminal defense lawyers practice. Their needs are simply different. It is impossible for any group or governing body to adequately address the criminal law practice without involving criminal defense lawyers - who have historically been excluded from these discussions.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Criminal defense lawyers or groups (such as TCDLA or HCCLA) should be given an opportunity for meaningful participation and review of proposals.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree