



May 8, 2013

*Lawyers Serving the Public and the Justice System*

Mr. Douglas M. Bell  
Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee  
Office of the U. S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Bell:

On behalf of the State Bar of Georgia we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the USTR's Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Agreement.

The State Bar of Georgia is a unified bar created by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated December 6, 1963, and is composed of every lawyer admitted to practice in the State of Georgia. A significant part of the function of the Bar is the enforcement of the regulatory process adopted by our Supreme Court.

Among the topics suggested for comment is one that deals with existing barriers to trade in services; i.e., suggested topic (i). From this we anticipated that the proposed agreement will deal with trade in services, including regulations affecting the practice of law. The purpose of our comment is to call to the attention of USTR to the historic principles of federalism and request sensitivity toward any federal policy that might, intentionally or unintentionally, have the effect of preempting state laws or regulations.

While we recognize the increasing globalization of the practice of law and the increase in the number of lawyers practicing across international borders we feel that our Supreme Court is in the best position to determine the core qualities for a lawyer to obtain and maintain a license and provide legal advice and advocacy. Our Court has developed extensive and effective regulations governing all aspects of the practice of law including a strict ethical code and disciplinary process. Should the negotiations move in such a direction as to implicate these regulations we request that we be advised and given an opportunity to be heard. We further request that USTR recognize and support the sovereignty of state judicial systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Frazer Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Frazer Clark