



February 8, 2008

Ms Sheridan Scott
Commissioner of Competition
Competition Bureau
50 Victoria Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0C9

Dear Commissioner Scott:

Re: Self-Regulated Professions – Balancing Competition and Regulation

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association with respect to the Competition Bureau's recent report on self-regulated professions, which we have reviewed with interest.

For the time being, it will suffice to say that the CBA and its members are proud of the quality of the services rendered to their clients in Canada, and the efficiency with which they are delivered. We agree that there are, indeed, legitimate public interests other than competition that must come into play in the regulation of the legal profession. We are confident that upon further reasoned analysis, using appropriate methodologies and with due consideration of Canada's juridical, linguistic, geographical, social, economic and other diversities, the conclusion will be that Canadian clients and the public are generally well served.

The CBA has a long-standing tradition of leadership in promoting the quality and effective delivery of legal services in Canada. For instance, the Association has played a major role in defining professional ethics, first adopting a Canon of Legal Ethics in 1920 and updating it regularly, most recently in the Code of Professional Conduct in 2006. In response to recent pronouncements from the Supreme Court of Canada, the CBA formed a task force on conflicts of interest to develop policy and practice models to deal with complex issues surrounding conflicts.

The CBA also plays a key role in promoting access to justice for all Canadians. In advocating greater legal aid for poor people, improvements in the civil justice system, efficiencies to reduce the cost of litigation, alternative dispute resolutions, or maintained delivery of legal services in small centres, and rural and remote areas of Canada, our members know that economic efficiency and low cost are not the only important factors in the solicitor-client relationship.

The legal profession has changed dramatically in the recent past. The CBA will continue to work with the other stakeholders in the legal system to ensure that the delivery of legal services continues to evolve.

Yours truly,

(original signed by Bernard Amyot)

Bernard Amyot