

**Senneff, Angie**

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**Subject:** FW: SCAC

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**From:** lkinard01@msn.com [mailto:lkinard01@msn.com] **On Behalf Of** Lewis Kinard

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 5:19 PM

**To:** Babcock, Chip

**Subject:** SCAC

Mr. Babcock,

As a lawyer in Houston who has decades of experience working with low-income clients as well as commercial clients, I wanted to convey my thoughts on the outrage some have expressed over the Supreme Court's efforts to alleviate the crush of self-represented litigants in our state's family courts. I can only imagine that you have or will receive a flood of emails and phone calls instigated by Tom Ausley and his cohorts. There is no organized effort to rally support for the Forms Task Force, so it seems that the loudest voices all are against the effort.

If that opposition had already significantly reduced the 60-120,000 unrepresented parties that presently--before the much-feared simple divorce forms ever get out of the Task Force--appear in our courts, maybe they would have an argument. But simple, court-approved "mandatory acceptance" pleadings and orders for uncontested, no kids, no property divorces will be far more beneficial than harmful in Texas. The family bar simply will not take on 100,000 pro bono cases every year, nor will they donate enough money to pay for free legal aid for them. And every day that we have this debate, more people go online or to libraries and get self-help forms that may or may not be appropriate for Texas.

The U.S. Supreme Court has already cleared up the question of whether the Bar can stifle publication of self-help legal materials. The Family Law Foundation would serve its members better by teaching them how to make money serving these do-it-yourselfers than by fanning the embers of a dying fire. They could also operate a referral service for Limited Scope Representation law firms and even lobby for reduced malpractice insurance requirements for those who participate in such a service and accept modest-means clients (up to 300% of the federal poverty level).

I have been helping people represent themselves since the 1990s. It can be done and lawyers can make money doing it. I interviewed lawyers around the country who are doing it for my book. In short, there is plenty of opportunity inside the perceived threat and this vocal minority does not represent the rest of us.

Thank you for your time and your service.

M. Lewis Kinard  
Houston

4/10/2012