Proposed Changes to TN Supreme Court Rule 7

My “comment” is actually more of a question than a comment. I am curious to know if the new language that is added to 1.03(e) is going to be defined, and if it's not going to be defined, how broadly or narrowly is that language going to be interpreted.

The specific language I am referencing is as follows:

honesty, respect for the rights of others, due respect for the law, and the fitness to practice law

Several of these terms like “honesty” and “fitness” are pretty well understood. The term “due respect for the law” also has a pretty plain meaning to it. The one that concerns me most is “respect for the rights of others” because the terminology seems somewhat vague and subjective. What are “rights?” Are legal rights being referenced or is it more broad than that? The term “respect” is also inherently vague because what is respectful to some people and cultures may be disrespectful to other people and cultures. I am just wondering what the drafters had in mind here for that particular language and what inspired it. I am fearful of interpretations that could be overly-harsh.

I am curious to know if any of these terms will be further defined, or, if not, how these terms might be interpreted.

Sincerely,

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BPR #036039