

January 18, 2016

Client's Name
Address

Re: Sales Tax on Legal Services

Dear *Client*:

As you may know, the Pennsylvania House and Senate have discussed legislation that would impose a sales tax on legal services. I am writing to you to ask for your help in voicing opposition to any sales tax on legal services. The tax would place a tremendous burden on those who can least afford to pay an additional charge. Such a tax would have a detrimental impact on the availability of legal representation to many people, as it is regressive and will reduce individuals' ability to obtain legal services due to the increased cost of legal services.

I would ask that you contact your State Representative and Senator immediately and remind them of why imposing such a tax is a bad idea. When speaking to your legislators, please keep in mind the following essential services that attorneys provide, often to clients of limited means, that would now be taxed:

- obtaining workers' compensation or social security benefits that have been wrongly denied
- avoiding a home foreclosure
- gaining court ordered protection from an abusive spouse or parent
- obtaining fair and equal access to fundamental rights
- dealing with a hostile landlord or tenant
- fighting a property assessment action by local government
- drafting a simple will or probating the will of a loved one.

You should also remind your legislators that Pennsylvania would be the only state in the nation with such a tax and that a 1987 sales tax on legal services that was enacted in Florida proved so unpopular that it was repealed within nine months.

The telephone numbers for Senator Alloway, Representative Kauffman and Representative Schemel are (717) 787-4651, (717) 264-3943, and (717) 749-7384.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
