

Dear Mr. Snelling,

I'm writing on behalf of the Barbershop Harmony Society Board of Directors, who received your January 6 letter while at the Midwinter Convention.

First, please know that all of us on the Society Board of Directors both sympathize and empathize with you and that we understand that you and your grandson have suffered significantly. We also understand your desire to continue to pursue the matter through whatever means available. In this case, however, and as you pointed out in your letter, our ethics procedure is not a legal procedure. You make statements in your letter about new evidence, but we presume that any new information would be related to the criminal case – which is now concluded.

While we can fully understand your desire to proceed against the Society members who were witnesses in the court proceeding, and understand your position that by doing so they may have violated our canons of ethics, but we are not a court of law and the Society does not get involved in legal matters in which it is not a party. Our ethics process was never intended to be a vehicle to intervene in these kinds of issues where the legal process was followed and adjudicated in court.

The Board, after reviewing the case and the process of the ethics committee – both their investigation and deliberation – has decided to support their conclusion and decision. We therefore respectfully decline to reopen this matter. Rather, we pray that you, your grandson, and your extended family are able to heal from this very difficult chapter.

Sincerely,

John Miller, BHS EVP

On behalf of the Barbershop Harmony Society Board of Directors