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To Our Valued HALT Donors,

It has recently come to our attention that some of you may have received a highly unusual and, frankly, bizarre solicitation letter from former HALT employee Tom Gordon on behalf of an organization called Responsive Law. In the letter, Mr. Gordon purports to set forth reasons why Responsive Law is a more effective reformer of the legal industry than HALT.

At the outset, we find it surprising, disappointing and offensive that an organization holding itself out as a reformer of the legal industry would directly interfere with another legal reform organization's efforts to raise funds. While we will not issue a point by point rebuttal of the assertions set forth in Mr. Gordon's letter, we do believe that it is necessary to respond to several misleading statements in the letter.

First, any insinuation by Mr. Gordon that HALT has not been a responsible steward for donations to the organization in recent years is completely false. Since its formation in 1977, HALT has steadfastly safeguarded its donor funds and used them efficiently to promote its mission of making the legal system more responsive to the needs of all citizens, and to increase consumer self-reliance in handling legal affairs.

In addition, Mr. Gordon's letter conveniently ignores all of the initiatives undertaken by HALT in the recent past to accomplish its mission, including but not limited to the following examples:

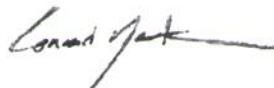
- Testifying before the California Bar's Governance in the Public Interest Task Force in January of 2011. The Task Force report, issued in May of 2011, endorsed HALT's reform suggestion to increase the percentage of non-lawyer participants not only on the bar's governance board, but also on committees that oversee attorney regulation, admission, and discipline.
- Testifying before the State Bar of California in May of 2011 regarding its proposal to post a "Consumer Alert" warning online on the profile pages of lawyers charged with misappropriating \$25,000 or more of client funds. We were the only consumer group to support the proposal, which has now passed and is in effect statewide.
- Filing written testimony with a blue ribbon commission of the Kansas judiciary in June of 2011 to increase access to the state's small claims court system. Appointed by the Kansas Supreme Court, the 24-member panel has been conducting an intensive review of state court operations. HALT advised the commission to ensure that its review included the procedures at work in its deteriorating small claims court system.
- HALT was featured in several media outlets throughout 2011, including: *The Wall Street Journal*, *Des Moines Register*, *Chicago Daily Law Tribune*, *Connecticut Law Tribune*, *California Bar Journal*, *Mercury News*, and the *Missouri Lawyers Media*.

- Submitting comments to the State Bar of California in January of 2012 supporting a new proposed advisory opinion that would *prohibit* lawyers from seeking an oral or written agreement from their clients not to file a state bar complaint against them as a condition in a settlement agreement.
- Releasing a national legal malpractice insurance disclosure study with initiatives in February of 2012 in regard to which states require lawyers to disclose their legal malpractice insurance and to whom, or what entity, that disclosure needs to be made.
- Releasing a national study in Spring of 2012 on legal discipline transparency, as we are encouraging states to inform consumers, through online postings, whether a prospective attorney has a current or past discipline record. HALT has already been featured in multiple media outlets since April of this year for this work, including two radio interviews on WTOP in Washington, DC, an interview on KHOU-CBS out of Houston, Texas, as well as a feature story in the Connecticut Law Tribune.
- In April of 2012, launching our first new website since 1996, which represents a comprehensive resource guide to HALT's mission and work in a clear, easy to read format.

Finally, Mr. Gordon's letter attempts to differentiate his own leadership experience with that of HALT's Executive Director Rodd Santomauro. Mr. Santomauro's credentials are listed at his LinkedIn profile, which can be viewed publicly at <http://www.linkedin.com/in/roddsantomauro>. His credentials speak for themselves. Mr. Gordon points out that he has ten years' experience working on issues of access and accountability in the legal system. It is worth noting that the majority of the experience cited by Mr. Gordon was gained during the time that he worked as a HALT employee, and that he was never employed as the Executive Director at HALT.

We apologize for any inconvenience or aggravation that any of you may have been caused by the receipt of Mr. Gordon's recent letter. We look forward to continuing our relationship with you, as well as working with you in support of HALT's critically important mission of improving the legal system for all consumers and advance affordable, accessible, and accountable justice for all.

Sincerely,



Conrad Martin
HALT Board Chair