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BY EMAIL, FAX, AND U.S. MAIL

GALEN SHERWIN Senior Staff Attorney T/212.519.7819 F/212.549.2580 gsherwin@aclu.org

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION

WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROJECT NATIONAL OFFICE 125 BROAD STREET, 18° FL. NEW YORK, NY 10004-2400 T/212.549.2644 F/212.549.2580 WWW.ACLU.ORG

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SUSAN N. HERMAN *PRESIDENT*

ANTHONY D. ROMERO

ROBERT B. REMAR

Julia Vaughan
Executive Director
Texas Board of Law Examiners
PO Box 13486
Austin TX 78711-3486

Nahdiah Hoang Director of Eligibility & Examination Texas Board of Law Examiners PO Box 13486 Austin TX 78711-3486

Re: Non-Standard Testing Accommodations Policy for Nursing Mothers

Dear Ms. Vaughan and Ms. Hoang:

We were pleased to learn that the Board of Law Examiners ("Board") recently reconsidered its denial of non-standard testing accommodations for Shahzeen Karim, and has granted her request for accommodations during the exam. Ms. Karim had consulted us prior to the Board's decision to grant her accommodations. We write to applaud the Board's decision to break with its past practice in offering these accommodations to Ms. Karim, and to inquire about broader policy change.

We now encourage the Board to amend its policies and practices in order to provide all nursing mothers who seek non-standard testing accommodations with similar accommodations to those granted to Ms. Karim. Such change is necessary in order to ensure that the Board's policies both comport with the law and reflect best practices for professional licensing examinations.

We have been involved in other efforts of this kind, including policy change for nursing mothers applying to take the Bar Exam in other states, the Law School Admissions Test, and certain medical licensing tests. In the process of doing so, we have analyzed the law and have reviewed policies adopted by other states' bar examiners and licensing boards. We would be happy to serve as a resource to you in any way that would be helpful as you examine your policies regarding accommodations for nursing mothers.

Please let us know where the Board stands on its policies with respect to nursing mothers and how we may be of service. We will look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Adriana Pinon Staff Attorney ACLU of Texas Galen Sherwin

Senior Staff Attorney

ACLU Women's Rights Project