

TO: Nadine Strossen

FROM: Larry Hamermesh, Chair, Rights and Responsibilities Committee

DATE: July 6, 2006

You have asked the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities to apprise you of the status and direction of its further deliberations. As suggested in my comments at the conclusion of the discussion of our report at the June 17 Board meeting, our committee, having heard the comments of many Board members at that meeting, will be withdrawing sections 4 and 7 of the proposed guidelines, and will evaluate what if any alternative language to propose that more accurately reflects the ACLU's longtime and abiding commitment to the free speech rights of all, including ACLU Board members. As stated at the Board meeting, the Committee never intended that its proposed guidelines would result in any sanction on Board members' speech. I expect that the drafting and presentation of any alternative language will proceed in line with a timetable and procedure customary for Board committees.