

Steven R. Newcomb  
268 Bonnet Way  
Southport, NC 28461

Paul J. Killion  
Chief Disciplinary Counsel  
Disciplinary Board  
of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania  
200 North Third Street, Suite 1400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Killion,

Now that John Yoo's infamous "Torture Memo" has been made public, the Pennsylvania Bar must decide whether it will separate itself from its stench. The contents of this memo are incompatible with the vast preponderance of American jurisprudence and tradition, with the Bill of Rights, and with the very core of the whole American experiment in government: that freedom for everyone is possible only if the rule of law prevails over the rule of men.

Yoo's memo claimed that the American people, through their elected officials, can collectively act like a lawless thug with impunity, as long as the thug only breaks American law when the actual crime is committed outside the geographic boundaries of America. This theory is the basis on which many outrages have been committed in the name of the American people.

Yoo should be promptly censured and disbarred by the Bar for violating fundamental ethics of the practice of law, and for bringing disgrace not only upon the American legal profession, but upon every American in the same act.

I sincerely hope that the ABA will not follow the American Psychological Association's (APA's) example. The APA has defended the professional standing of psychologists who participate in the "harsh interrogation" industry, even though "Do No Harm" is the ethical maxim of the entire medical profession. The APA is said to have participated in at least one classified conference focused on so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques", by members who have since resigned in order to distance themselves from the ethical taint of their erstwhile professional association.

My father, Robert E. Newcomb Jr., was a member of the Pennsylvania Bar. If he were still alive, he would be among those advocating censure and disbarment for Yoo's inexcusably unprofessional conduct. My father's memory prompts this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven R. Newcomb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Steven R. Newcomb