

Freelance Party Memorandum

TO: all ATA members

RE: Pittman/Glassie hit-man "legal opinion" letter.

In a polling place electioneering law violation worth a hefty fine in Texas, ATA's mercenary manager included with the proxy forms a smear letter by Washington attorney Glassie (of ShawPittman). Since the petition and amendment are perfectly legal and aboveboard, the lawyer's only recourse for claiming the usual 55¢ per word betrayal fee was to churn out a stream of adjectives. [That would come to \$67 for this letter at Hamm Report payola rates]

Here's what the legal opinion consisted of:

**Adjectives** and lickspittle flattery of the board's plot to kidnap and rename accreditation and hold it hostage for a stream of ransom are: good, advisable, experienced, professional consultant, we agree, extensive experience, normal, psychometrically sound, legally defensible and [get this!] "*preserve the integrity of the credential.*"

**Adjectives** belittling the grassroots initiative by independent freelancers to legally curb absolutism and place the credential under democratic control of the translators who earned it are: poor, inadvisable, damaging, extreme, detriment of the association, detriment of the profession, and hamstring decision making.

Adjectives applied to democracy: breach [of] due process and antitrust laws, dubious from a legal perspective.

George Orwell observed that "Circus dogs jump when the trainer cracks his whip, but the really well-trained dog is the one that turns his somersault when there is no whip." [Tribune 7/7/1944] The dues money members pay has—in the hands of the board and its mercenaries—trained this lawyer to do their bidding. The role is certainly not to defend the membership's legal rights.

If our credential has any integrity to preserve, it is because the infiltrators on our board of directors and their salaried and fee-taking minions have not yet worked their way with it. Don't let it happen. Vote against the board's proposals and for the Credential Amendment Initiative.

Cheerfully yours —JHP