Racial discrimination:

Housing hearings set

## Citizen groups demand new election

**Associated Press** 

BEAUMONT - Two citizens groups in this financially troubled city say they have more than enough signatures on petitions to force an election to recall its mayor.

Sandra Collier of Citizens United for Responsible Government said she didn't know how many signa- tant to striking workers at the pri-

tures her group had collected but was optimistic the number was sufficient to force an election recall

Her group wants to recall Mayor Bill Neild and Councilman Wayne

Reuben Guttman, a legal consul-

vately-owned Schlesinger Geriatric Center, said his clients' union col-lected about 1,200 signatures demanding a mayoral recall election.

The Service Employees International Local 706 also collected about 1,250 names on petitions to force a vote on increasing the minimum

wage within the city from \$3.35 an hour to \$4.10 an hour, Guttman

It takes 960 signatures or 30 percent of the vote in the April election to force a recall election and 800 signatures or 25 percent of the April vote to force a wage referendum.

## Unethical lawyers risking punishment

AUSTIN - Lawyers who unethically solicit business from victims of the Delta Flight 191 crash will be investigated and punished if guilty,

DALLAS --- A congressional

panel will hold hearings in Dallas and Houston next week to exam-

ine racial segregation and dis-crimination in lederally subsi-

dized housing.

The House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Development, chaired by U.S. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, will hold day-long hearings in Dallas on Aug. 29 and in Houston on Aug. 30.

The hearings will examine ra-

The hearings will examine ra-cial segregation in subsidized

not going to sit around and do noth-the president of the State Bar of Texas vowed Tuesday.

"In Texas, we don't intend to turn our heads when people are coming in here solicitng clients. . . . We're

housing, homelessness, the need for low-income housing and pro-posals to demolish public hous-

ing, including the 1,000-apart-ment Allen Parkway Village

housing project in Houston, a subcommittee spokesman said.

U.S. Reps. Steve Bartlett, Martin Frost and John Bryant are also expected to attend the Dallas

The hearings follow U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice's landmark ruling in July

ing when the code of ethics is vio-lated," said bar president Charles L.

News reports following the Aug. 2 crash, which killed 134 people at the Dallas-Fort Worth airport, noted that some lawyers had traveled to Dallas and talked with potential clients. At least two lawyers stayed at the same hotel that housed families of crash victims.

In a letter to several Texas and Florida newspapers and some na-tional news outlets, Smith said the State Bar will take all appropriate action against Texas lawyers or those from out of state who violate rules of conduct.

'It is unethical for a lawyer to solicit business such as the representation of survivors or the families of the victims of this tragedy," Smith's letter said.

"If any citizens feel they have been wrongfully solicited by an attorney or have been badgered into entering an unwanted lawsuit, they should contact the general counsel's office of the State Bar of Texas. This matter will be immediately investigated," he wrote

Smith, in a telephone interview from his San Antonio office, said he wrote the letter after seeing the news reports, adding that bar officials know "certain things are going on.

"We have statements from the public as to some things that may have happened there," he said. "We are looking into anything that may have occurred there.

Bar association rules prohibit officials from discussing specific complaints or investigations

Texas has a law prohibiting barratry, which includes the practice of soliciting clients. The State Bar's code of professional responsibility also prohibits initiating contacts with prospective clients.

Smith's letter said that if an investigation uncovers evidence that a Texas-licensed lawyer has violated the code of professional responsibility, "a complaint will be filed with the proper grievance committee for action deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Although the state bar doesn't license lawyers from other states, Smith said action could be taken against them, too.



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