

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

STEPHEN W. TOWNSEND  
CLERK

GAIL GRUNDITZ HANEY  
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OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
PO Box 970  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0970

December 20, 2007

Josh King  
Vice President, Business Development  
& General Counsel  
Avvo, Inc.  
217 Pine Street  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. King:

I have your letter of December 19, 2007, which was forwarded by facsimile machine. This response will be faxed to you, as well.

I would first point out that the Open Public Records Act does not apply to the Judiciary (the definition of "public agency" being limited to the Executive and Legislative Branches of State government, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1). Availability of judiciary records is governed by Supreme Court Rules and directives. Generally speaking, bar admission records are confidential. R. 1:23-3(a). In any event, let me move on to your specific requests.

You have asked for specific data in respect of every member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey (Name, Year of Admission, Business Address, and Current Bar Status). I have informed you that our internal project in respect of an electronic roll of attorneys has not yet been completed. Your response -- that you are not looking for the database application, you just want the information (and in any form we care to give it to you) -- is based on a misunderstanding of my letter. I did not intend to imply that I was unable to comply with your request because you were looking for our "database application." I understood you are a private enterprise looking for data. What I was saying was that we cannot provide you with the requested data because the system to collect and maintain that information accurately is not in place. Further, once the project attains apparent reliability, the Supreme Court intends to direct a limited distribution to employees of the Judiciary, essentially as a beta test to confirm its viability. Only after the Court has approved placing our database application on the Judiciary's public website will the Court revisit the question you have raised. Unfortunately, ongoing issues make it impossible for me to give you a date by which an answer to your inquiry will be available.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen W. Townsend", written in dark ink.