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What, me lazy?

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Going way back: All I meant to say was the 1992 congressional race around Jackson was more negative than any we have seen since. But the point spun out of control.

Iaram1 still disputes my memory that 1992 candidate Brad Haskins called himself a lawyer but had no license to practice law in any state. Iaram1 says:

"My dear, my memory is doing pretty well--you unfortunately are just not right again, and maybe your editors are right that you are just a wee bit lazy? He was of course licensed in various locations and was since 1985 in Texas as almost everybody knew. You can even see it now. Many of us never understood what you thought you were saying. I guess it is clear now."

This is not how I remembered it, so I dug up the file for anyone who might still care. The entire 1992 story is reproduced after the link below.

From the June 23, 1992, Jackson Citizen Patriot:

Bradley J. Haskins, a Republican candidate for Congress who says he is an "attorney specializing in international trade," is not licensed to practice law.

Haskins, 32, who lives near Battle Creek, has never been a licensed attorney in Michigan and has no active license in any other state.

Michigan law says it is illegal for anyone "in any manner whatsoever to designate himself as an attorney unless ... regularly licensed and authorized to practice law."

Haskins does have a law degree and was licensed to practice in Texas, but that license went inactive nine months ago at his request.

He said he does not need a license in the U.S. because he is an international lawyer who does all his work abroad.

"My license is inactive with respect to the U.S. because all my work is in Eastern Europe," said Haskins, a Republican candidate in a new congressional district that includes Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties.

"It is probably a lot more complicated than the average person realizes," he added. "I can't even stress enough that this is absolutely no issue in any way."

Marcia L. Proctor, regulation counsel for the State Bar of Michigan, said international lawyers should be licensed to practice law.

"In this state, you can't hold yourself out to be a lawyer unless you are authorized to practice law," she said. "If he is not actively licensed, he is not authorized to practice law. Period."

Haskins said his status was investigated (by the State Bar) two years ago, when he ran for Congress and lost to Democrat Howard Wolpe, and "everything I was doing was absolutely proper."

Proctor would not discuss her investigation, but said no legal action was taken against Haskins. She added that the State Bar never takes legal action unless there is evidence of harm to the public.

"It's our investigative file -- he doesn't even know what's in it," Proctor said. "Just because we don't sue someone does not mean we think he is completely clean."

Haskins got a law degree from the University of Michigan in 1985, according to a spokesman at the Ann Arbor college, and was licensed in Texas later that year.

He worked from mid 1985 to late 1986 as an associate attorney for the Houston law firm of Liddell, Sapp, Zively, Hill & LaBoon, according to an office manager there.

He then moved to New York as an associate attorney in the corporate department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, according to a spokesman for that firm.

Haskins moved to Ceresco, near Battle Creek, to run against Wolpe in 1990, and his Texas license became inactive in September 1991, according to the Texas Bar Association. He said it cost too much to keep his Texas license active when he does not need it for his international practice.

"It can be reactivated at any time," Haskins said. "I can reactivate it with a phone call."

The Texas Bar Association reports that Haskins still is a member in good standing who pays reduced dues -- \$50 a year instead of \$235 -- to keep an inactive license.

He cannot practice in Texas with an inactive license, but can reactivate it with a written request and \$185, according to the Bar Association.

Haskins said he has not appeared in a U.S. courtroom or given legal advice on "U.S. matters" for two years.

"Most of my work is with American corporations selling products to new markets abroad," he said.

In financial disclosure statements filed June 1, Haskins lists four clients that paid him legal fees totaling \$20,400 since January this year.

The only American client listed for 1992 is Stewart Corp. of Clarksburg, W. Va., which has paid him \$10,000. The corporation belongs to Dr. Michael A. Stewart, who works for a Clarksburg hospital. Dr. Stewart would not discuss the work Haskins does for him.

Haskins' three other listed clients are an Austrian computer firm (\$3,400) and the governments of Poland (\$4,000) and Czechoslovakia (\$3,000).

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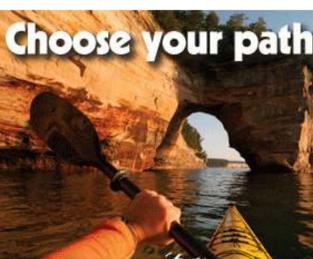
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