

Jack Blum's response to the American Bar Associat...

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I [have noted](#) the American Bar Associations submission to the Senate hearing on incorporation and financial crime today.

Jack Blum of Tax Justice Network USA also gave evidence. [He said](#) in response to his fellow lawyers:

Some members of the bar are concerned that imposing AML responsibility of lawyers who act as incorporation agents will violate lawyer client privilege. I believe that there is a bright line between giving a client legal advice, which is protected by privilege, and performing transactional work that requires interaction with government agencies. If a lawyer explains to a client that he must gather certain information and turn it over to the government as a condition of incorporation the client should have no expectation of confidentiality.

If a lawyer handles an incorporation in a situation where that lawyer knows the corporation will be used as part of a money laundering scheme then the lawyer ceases being a lawyer and becomes a co-conspirator. Under those circumstances neither the lawyer nor the client deserves protection.

Quite so. When I wrote my blog on the ABA submission I had not read what Jack had said. I'm always encouraged when I find I'm in agreement with Jack. I am here, absolutely.