

Mr. Joe Soun Dowling
President, Board of Directors
Zen Studies Society
233 East 67th St.
New York, NY 10065

Dear Mr. Dowling,

As Head Teacher at Maria Kannon Zen Center in Dallas, Texas, I respectfully add my voice to those of other Zen teachers, my Dharma sisters and Dharma brothers of different lineages, in support of your efforts to make the Zen Studies Society and Dai Bosatsu Zendo move forward with a clean start toward being a vibrant and respected and credible community of Zen practice.

Eido Shimano Roshi's ethical conduct, mainly the reported sexually predatory behavior already noted during the time of his tutelage with the late Robert Aitken Roshi, and more seriously, through the years that he continued in a position of responsibility as Zen Teacher and Abbot of Zen Studies Society and Daibosatsu Zendo, is at the center of public scrutiny and furor. At last summer's (2010) annual meeting of the American Zen Teachers' Association held at Rochester, New York, the Zen teachers gathered there voiced our support and encouragement for Shinge Roshi, now your new Abbot, and Genjo Marinello Roshi, in their efforts to work with you and the rest of the Board and your entire zen community to do what is best for all concerned, and also made some recommendations to them in this regard in a friendly and collegial way.

I join my Dharma sisters and Dharma brothers in encouraging you and your Board, with the leadership of newly installed Abbot Shinge Roshi, to continue taking steps so that your Zen community will be freed of any taint of whitewashing, condoning or appeasing any kind of unethical and harmful, not to mention possibly legally and criminally reprehensible behavior, even by someone to whom you are all beholden in so many ways. I join my fellow Zen Teachers in urging you to dissociate yourselves formally and publicly from Eido Shimano Roshi, and to take all steps necessary to make this truly effective and credible to the public and to all in your community as well as to all of us who value and cherish the practice of Zen as a path of transformation of self and of society.

Yours in the Dharma,

Ruben Habito (Keiun-Ken)