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September 21, 1992

TO: SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

RE: AMENDMENTS TO RULES REGULATING
THE FLORIDA BAR-1.3.1(a) AND
RULES OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
-2.065 (LEGAL AID)

Case No. 74,538

GENTLEMEN:

Every citizen of this country has a right to engage in any legitimate occupation. The fact that licenses are required to practice certain professions is a matter of establishing competency for the protection of the public. Licensing to engage in employment has nothing to do with conveying a privileged status on the licensee. The right to practice law is no different than the right to work as a medical doctor, CPA, or building contractor.

The Constitution of the United states protects all citizens against involuntary servitude. Any attempt to force attorneys to work free of charge, or buy their way out of such bondage, is clearly unconstitutional. If additional legal service to the poor is really needed, let the public establish and support the necessary facilities in the same manner as it supports public hospitals and provides for Medicare and Medicaid.

The proposed pro bono rules would make slaves of the attorneys of this state. This Court should act as forcefully to uphold the rights of the attorneys of this state as it would the rights of any other class of citizens. The Court should reject the proposed rules.

Sincerely,


JACK H. WEECH, JR.

JHW:jlw