



BAR AREA LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

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The Florida Bar

April 3, 1991

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Ms. Laurie Holcomb
The Florida Bar
650 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3200

Re: HB 609 / HB 1333 Amendment
Non-attorney agent law practice in residential eviction suits

Dear Ms. Holcomb:

I offer my comments on the above topic at the request of attorney Steve Seliger. Steve told me that the Bar has an interest in my comments. Steve also told me that you have a copy of the outline I prepared on this topic for my Florida Bar CLE presentations in January of this year.

I enjoyed discussing this topic with you today on the telephone. I would like to limit my comments here to two basic points.

(1) Representation of a landlord by someone without an ownership interest *is* the practice of law. An analogous situation would be a non-owner property manager filing a foreclosure or quiet title action.

(2) The practice of law by persons not admitted to the Bar is a threat to the integrity of the courts. A non-attorney has no real fear of Bar discipline for misrepresentations to the court. Further, I can recall a number of instances where non-attorney agents have confused and prolonged the proceedings by their ignorance of statutory provisions, the rules of procedure, and the rules of evidence.

I would be happy to elaborate on these points or respond to inquiries as to other concerns.

Sincerely,

Marty Lawyer
Florida Bar # 128095

cc: Steve Seliger

ML/s

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