

097

FILED

SID J. WHITE

FEB 1 1993

CLERK, SUPREME COURT

By _____
Chief Deputy Clerk

January 29, 1993

Supreme Court of Florida
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1925

8,1010

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the petition filed by the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar proposing so-called "anti-bias rules."

These rules could be construed in such a way as to prevent Florida Bar members from expressing controversial opinions on issues relating to race, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Therefore, these rules would clearly violate the First Amendment right to free speech as guaranteed to all citizens by the U.S. Constitution.

Many Florida Bar members belong to religious faiths which teach us that homosexuality is morally wrong, and that we should not knowingly associate with people who are involved in an immoral lifestyle. By requiring Bar members to employ homosexuals as associates, these rules would violate our First Amendment right to the free exercise of religion.

For at least these two reasons, I respectfully request that the petition be denied. These proposed rules represent yet another attempt by the Bar politicians and bureaucrats to play an increasingly authoritarian, Big Brother role in the lives of Bar members. In recent years, the Bar bureaucracy has become for rank-and-file members at best an expensive, parasitic pain in the neck, and at worst a sinister threat to our very livelihoods and basic rights as American citizens. The Supreme Court of Florida has an opportunity to reverse this disturbing trend by denying this petition.

I do not wish to make enemies within the Bar power structure, nor do I wish to become a target of the McCarthyite witch-hunts for "bigots" which would surely follow approval of these proposed rules. Therefore, I am signing this letter simply and,

Sincerely,

A Concerned Florida Bar Member

CC: Mr. John F. Harkness, Jr.
Executive Director, The Florida Bar
The Florida Bar Center
650 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300