Opinion 2/8/96

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April 1, 1996

FILED
SID J. WHITE
APR 3 1996
CLERK, SUPREME COURT
By _____
Chief Deputy Clerk

The Honorable Sid J. White
Clerk, The Supreme Court of Florida
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

87,058

Dear Sid:

We are really dismayed about the Court's recent ruling prohibiting attorneys from checking out court files from the Clerks' offices.

While we do understand that allowing pro se litigants and inmates to take files from the clerk's office does pose a problem, attorneys, as members of the Florida Bar and officers of the Court, are in a very different situation. We are subject to sanctions by the Courts and by the Bar, up to and including disbarment for violations of Court rules and regulations.

With lawyer-bashing so popular at the present time, the Court's rule could be interpreted as the Supreme Court of Florida lowering lawyers to the same level as incarcerated criminals.

We respectfully request that the Court reconsider its ruling and allow practicing attorneys to check out files from the Clerks, at least in the Circuit where the lawyer's primary office is located.

We would appreciate your bringing our concerns to the attention of the Court.

Sincerely,

Joann G. Slay

Jack A. Harnett

JGS/JAH:vs