LEO M. SCHWARTZBERG, P. E., C. E. P.
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March 11, 1996

Florida Supreme Court
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Attention: Clerk's Office

87589

Re: Florida Bar's Proposed Rule Changes

To whom it may concern:

I recently received a copy of Pages 18 & 19 of the February 15, 1996 issue of "The Florida Bar News." As a Florida registered professional engineer and a land development consultant, I am very concerned about the proposed rule change detailed on these pages.

Engineers, architects, planners, environmental professionals and attorneys make up the consulting teams for the land development industry. While each member of the team has a role that is clearly his or her realm, there are certain areas in which the expertise of the team members overlaps. Representing clients before Planning & Zoning Boards, City Councils, County Commissions and other similar bodies is one of those areas of overlap.

The overlap is a result of the broad range of subjects that must be addressed to process land development applications in the State of Florida. Just as there are legal interpretations that only a lawyer should argue in front of one of these government bodies, there are also issues in which the respective design professional is the only expert. To suggest that any one profession should have a monopoly on the representation of clients is to do a gross disservice both to the client and to the governing body.

The proposed rule also raises the question of whether or not requiring lawyers to represent client's on issues related to the design professions, would put the lawyer in the position of practicing engineering or architecture without a license. I urge you to reject this proposed rule change.

Please add my name to the appropriate mailing list so that I can remain informed of the status of the proposed change.

Sincerely,

Leo M. Schwartzberg, P. E., C. E. P.
LMS/jg

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