



ORIGINAL

The Florida Bar

FILED
THOMAS D. HALL
MAY 16 2001



CLERK, SUPREME COURT
BY

Herman J. Russomanno
President

John F. Harkness, Jr.
Executive Director
May 15, 2001

Terrence Russell
President-elect

The Honorable Thomas D. Hall, Clerk
The Supreme Court of Florida
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

Re: *Amendments to the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar - Rule 5-1.1(E) - IOTA*
(Case No. SC01-851)

Dear Mr. Hall:

The Board of Governors of The Florida Bar, at its March 30, 2001 regular meeting, considered the petition and commentary filed in the above-referenced action, as well as presentations from Hamilton Cooke, President of the Florida Bar Foundation, relative to the proposed amendments to rule 5-1.1(E), Rules Regulating The Florida Bar.

Our board wholly supports the petition of the Florida Bar Foundation and voted to formally register such sentiment in this matter. This letter is meant to convey the position of The Florida Bar in favor of these proposed amendments in Florida's Interest of Trust Accounts Program that should provide greater opportunity to secure critically needed funding for legal aid in this state.

The Bar does not otherwise contemplate any formal filings in this action but does intend to further confirm its support for the petitioners by the attendance of President-elect Terry Russell at the June 4, 2001 presentation of this proposal. Mr. Russell would be pleased to offer nominal remarks, if acceptable, and to otherwise be available to the Court as a Bar resource if need arises in those proceedings.

Therefore, if allowable via this letter, please consider this as notice of Mr. Russell's appearance during oral argument of this matter. We would expect to coordinate appropriately with the Court and others as further advised by your office.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Herman J. Russomanno

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Hon. Thomas D. Hall

May 15, 2001

cc: Terrence J. Russell
Tod Aronovitz
Darryl M. Bloodworth
A. Hamilton Cooke
Randall C. Berg, Jr.
Peter M. Siegel
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John Anthony Boggs
Jane R. Curran
Ms. Sara Gainey