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Reply to: Fort Lauderdale

Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 34399-1927

Re: Petition to Amend Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court
Relating to Admissions to the Bar
Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esq.
Case No.: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the Petitioners' petition proposing amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1977, and my Florida Bar number is 229091. As a practicing member of the Bar, the situation concerning law school graduates of Barry University concerns me. My understanding of the situation is that while Barry was undergoing the accreditation process, the rules were changed. As a result, individuals graduating from Barry University's School of Law have not been permitted to obtain their results from the Florida Bar examination and have been forced to return to the classroom to pursue a second Juris Doctorate degree. Some even had to leave jobs they had already accepted when the Bar would not release their scores. Whatever the situation, it certainly seems unfair that the students pay the ultimate price for a delay in obtaining accreditation.

I urge this Honorable Court to make certain that any Barry law students caught up in the Barry accreditation conflict be afforded full relief in the form of the release of their Florida Bar scores and, where appropriate, the ability to practice law in the State of Florida.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Epstein

1. Also admitted in Colorado
2. Also admitted in New York
3. Also admitted in Wisconsin
4. Also admitted in Georgia
5. Also admitted in Texas
6. Also admitted in Minnesota
7. Only admitted in the Province of Quebec