

Cesery L. Bullard

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July 14, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

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 & Thomas B.
Drage, Jr., Esq.

Case No: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

My name is Cesery Bullard, and I am writing this letter in support of the above-referenced petition. As one of the 109 alumni/returning students of Barry University School of law who has not been allowed to practice law due to the "12-month rule", I feel I am qualified as an interested person to comment on the petition.

I was born at Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach, Florida and have called Florida my home for all of my 34 years. My parents are originally from Florida, as are their parents, their parents' parents, and so on. As an individual with deep roots in this state, I am especially frustrated and disappointed in the fact to date we have been unable to obtain a remedy to the predicament we find ourselves in.

I understand the purpose behind the current 12-month rule as promulgated by this Court. It stands to reason that if accreditation from the ABA can be applied for and either granted or denied within 12 months that there would be very few, if any, applicants to the Florida Bar who would need a waiver of that rule. However, by changing its accreditation

rules, the ABA has in essence made the 12-month rule obsolete. Accordingly, this Court should change its rules to reflect the changes in the ABA accreditation process.

On a personal level, at this point, I am incredulous that I am currently attending law school for the second time to obtain a second Juris Doctorate. I graduated in June 2000 with high honors, having served on law review and having been awarded the Mission Effectiveness Student Award. I have worked in the legal field for approximately ten years, both before law school, during, after, and now during my second go-round at school. Throughout the arduous accreditation process and the many, many disappointments we suffered as a result of the unexplained and incomprehensible actions of the ABA, I had faith that all of my efforts would not go to un-rewarded. As hard as it was, I continued to attend school without taking any leaves of absence or failing to turn in a paper to artificially delay my graduation until after accreditation. We were told by the school administration, as a class, that we had to graduate. As a result, the majority of us did graduate and now find ourselves re-matriculating to earn a second Juris Doctorate.

We are being punished for believing in the school and the judicial system enough to graduate before ABA accreditation. If it weren't for us, there would be no Barry University School of Law as it exists today. Somehow, in all of the drama and confusion surrounding the school's accreditation, that fact has been lost on everyone.

Despite the fact that we have repeatedly had the door slammed in our face and told to go away, we are still here and are still fighting for admission to the Florida bar. I know I am as qualified to sit for the Florida Bar Exam and be admitted as an attorney as any other graduate of any other law school in this state. As a result, I am flabbergasted and confused by the Florida Board of Bar Examiner's general counsel and his repeated efforts to thwart our efforts for admittance. With two new law schools coming into the state, both of which are in public schools and therefore partially supported by taxpayers, it would seem to be in the best interests of all involved to change the current 12-month rule so that no

other individuals are caught in the nightmare we have been living for the better part of the last decade.

I worked extremely hard to obtain my first Juris Doctorate, and I am proud of my accomplishments in law school. I have no doubts as to the quality of my legal education, my ability to pass the bar, or my abilities as a practicing attorney. Yet, due to an arbitrary decision made by the ABA, coupled with Florida's 12-month rule, I have been not been allowed admittance into the very organization that I chose as my life's occupation. In the interests of justice, equity, and righting the wrong that has befallen us (and could befall the first classes of FIU and FAMU), I beseech this Honorable Court to adopt one of the proposed amendments to the rules. I would also urge this Court to rule swiftly and to order the release of our impounded bar scores.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Cesery L. Bullard

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail to attorney for petitioners, Mathew D. Staver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 14th day of July, 2003.

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