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July 1, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 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

Dear Your Honors:

This is a letter in full support of the above-referenced petition. Although I have only been a member of the Florida Bar since February of this year, license number 0187409, I have been a practicing attorney and member of the bars of the State of New Hampshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over twenty (20) years.

My understanding of the ABA accreditation process is somewhat limited, but I do understand that their remand procedures evolved over a period of time between 1999 and 2001. Presently, the House of Delegates of the ABA does not have the authority to make the final decision as to whether a law school gains provisional ABA accreditation- they can only remand back to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for reconsideration. This change has resulted in a glaring disconnect between this Court's 12- month rule and the ABA appellate process.

I urge this honorable Court to act swiftly and surely to conform its rules to comply with the reality of the ABA's accreditation process. Further, I respectfully urge this honorable Court to make certain that any law students/alumni from Barry University, caught up in this conflict in the rules, are afforded full relief in the form of the release of the bar scores and , where appropriate, admission to the Florida Bar.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Cohen

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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, Matthew D. Staver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 1st day of July, 2003.

Cristina Merton