

**Katherine M. Lockett, J.D.**  
**614 E. Church St.**  
**Orlando, FL 32801**

July 11, 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 and Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esq.; Case No: SC02-2354

Dear Mr. Chief Justice and Messrs. and Mmes. Justices:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the above-referenced 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 am not a member of the Florida Bar; however, I have a personal interest in this petition.

I am a June 2000 Barry University [of Orlando] School of Law (“Barry”) graduate. With permission of this Court, I completed the July 2000 Florida bar exam. I passed the August 2000 MPRE scoring in the top five percent (5%) of the exam candidates. However, after this Court’s denial of the release of my exam scores, *Florida Board of Bar Examiners re: Barry University School of Law*, 821 So. 2d 1050 (Fla. 2002), I returned to Barry in August 2002 to receive a second law degree. My projected graduation date is May 2004. I intend to sit for the July 2004 Florida bar exam and must re-take the MPRE, since the lapse of 25 months caused my passing score to slip into a failing score.

When I enrolled at Barry (f/k/a University of Orlando, School of Law) in Fall 1996, I was told not to worry because the school would be accredited “way before” my graduation date. I was a leader at my school, active in several organizations, and competed on our trial team. In fact, my co-counsel and I beat Tulane University and University of Florida law school trial teams in two different competitions. Each time I considered leaving Barry to attend a fully accredited Florida law school, something positive happened; for instance, the school received a favorable site visit report and recommendation for provisional accreditation.

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I do not understand why on June 29, 2000, this Court issued an order waiving the accreditation requirement, allowing me to sit for the July 2000 Florida bar exam, yet later refused to waive the 12-month accreditation requirement for the release of my exam scores. Since the 12-month window or time frame was strictly construed, then the first proposal should be seriously considered.

I strongly support changing the Bar Admission rules so they are congruent with the current ABA accreditation process which can now take up to three years. The current 12-month window is not in line with this three year approval process. My concern is also for the future graduates of the two Florida non-accredited law schools. My bar exam results and legal career should not have been thwarted because of an unfortunate administrative technicality, especially one that was beyond my control.

Further, the current 12-month rule does not comport with an individual's ability to sit for and pass the Florida bar exam. The educational qualification rule should ensure that students receive a quality education, one which gives them the analytical and advocacy skills such that when they pass the Florida bar exam, they will be responsible and ethical practitioners. I believe the goals of the bar exam and education qualification rule are to keep those *not truly qualified* to be attorneys *out* of the Bar. This Court recently furthered these goals by increasing the exam pass/fail score from 131 to 133 on July 1, 2003, and it will again increase to the pass/fail line to 136 on July 1, 2004. *Amendments to Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar*, Case No. SC96869 (revised opinion March 20, 2003).

I hope that my seven, almost eight, years of law school have not totally gone to waste. Since I cannot receive my July 2000 bar exam scores, then I respectfully request this Court change the Rules in accordance with the first proposal and permit me to sit for another Florida bar exam.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Lockett

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail to an attorney for petitioners, Mathew D. Saver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 11th day of July 2003.

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Katherine M. Lockett