

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:

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1984, and my license number is 434094. I am aware of the facts and circumstances surrounding Barry University's struggle to have its law school accredited and the subsequent penalty paid by those 109 graduates who have been forced to return to school due to the "12-month rule" in Florida, as this firm employs two Barry alumni/returning students.

I strongly support the petition to amend the 12-month rule. It would appear to me that the intent behind the current rules relating to bar admission are in place to ensure that the graduates taking the bar exam have graduated from a law school that has met certain standards. While I agree it is important to ensure a high level of education, the rule has not changed to reflect the changes in the ABA accreditation process, and the result has harmed over 100 individuals, including the two law clerks employed by this firm.

I urge this Honorable Court to adopt one of the proposals set forth in the petition to make certain that those law students/alumni from Barry who were caught up in the accreditation struggles and precluded from becoming licensed members of the bar be afforded full relief in the form of release of their bar exam results, and, where appropriate, admission to the Florida Bar. I would also request that this Honorable Court approve one of the proposals set forth in the petition to protect those students currently enrolled in FIU and FAMU's inaugural classes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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A. Kurt Ardaman

**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 14<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.

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A. Kurt Ardaman, Esquire