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July 3, 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

Dear Your Honors:

I have been practicing law for over 15 years. My Florida Bar number is 0038260. My paralegal Arve Wikstrom graduated from Barry Law outside of the 12 month requirement and cannot sit for the Florida Bar. Yet he was able to and just sat for the New York Bar in February 2003. Mr. Wikstrom would likely now be an attorney at our law office had he received his Florida Bar Results from February 2001.

My interest in the above-referenced petition lies in the fact that I currently work with Mr. Wikstrom, a Barry Law School graduate, who was prevented from practicing law in the State of Florida due to the accreditation snafu that befell Barry. I find it impossible to believe that this Honorable Court, the Florida Bar, and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners were unable to fashion a remedy, prior to this time, that would have allowed these alumni/students access to the bar they so justly deserved.

Surely the harm that the 12-month rule was designed to protect against was not a risk worth keeping Barry's first three graduating classes from practicing law.

Further, I understand that Florida has recently gained two new law schools, FAMU and FIU. My hope is that this Court will change the 12-month rule to protect the students currently embarking on a legal education at these new institutions. Students who endeavor to enter this honorable profession should not be summarily excluded because the 12-month rule does not comport with the ABA accreditation process.

I request that this Court adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by petitioners so that the 12-month rule is changed to reflect the current ABA accreditation process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

José Omar Seda

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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2003.

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Jose Omar Seda  
Florida Bar Number 0038260