



# Northside Hospital & Heart Institute

July 8, 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 Christina M. Gardner. I have been a licensed physical therapist assistant in the State of Florida for 22 years. My license number is PTA 614. I am writing you to express my support for the above referenced petition.

I understand that the current rules relating to bar admissions are in place to ensure that law school graduates taking the bar exam have graduated from an academically proven law school. Although I agree it is of utmost importance to set high standards of education for law schools, I also think it is important to modify the rules of accreditation when the process changes significantly. It is my understanding that in 1999 the ABA began changing its accreditation process. Specifically, Florida's rules relating to the definition of "accredited" and "educationally qualified" have not changed substantially since the early 1970's. As a result, Barry University School of Law's first three graduating classes were denied access to the FL Bar.

Furthermore, I understand that Florida has recently gained two new law schools, FAMU and FIU. I am hopeful that this court will modify the 12-month rule to protect students currently embarking on a legal education at new schools. Students who seek to enter this honorable profession should not be categorically excluded because the 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Christina M. Gardner*

### 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 11 day of July, 2003.