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July 9, 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 Daniel Tocco, and I am currently re-enrolled at Barry University School of Law and work as a law clerk in the law firm Chanfrau & Chanfrau in Daytona Beach, FL. I am writing you today to express my support for case number SC02-2354. I am one of the 109 students who were forced to return to Law school because I graduated 20 months before Barry University received provisional accreditation.

I feel that my fellow classmates and I are being punished because of a date attached to our graduation. I began law school in August of 1997 and graduated a little less than three years in June of 2000. I choose Barry University because I reside in Daytona Beach, Fl, and Barry was the closet school I could attend and commute to. In hindsight, if I knew how long Barry would have to endure the ABA accreditation process, I probably would not of attended Barry or slowed my graduation pace like other of my classmates who delayed graduation. Hindsight is always 20/20, and the part that does not make sense is, students who enrolled in school with me, who took the same classes with me, and with the same teachers as me are now practicing law! This has become true because Rule 2-11.1 has set a time line at 12 –months for a school to achieve accreditation. Rule 2-11.1 and Rule 4-13.2 does not accommodate Florida law students who are stuck in the ABA accreditation process. Barry University did not all of a sudden become a new school once accreditation was achieved. The school’s original application just took longer to complete than Rule 2-11.1 allowed. Now I am forced to repeat a process I began in August of 1997 at a huge financial and emotional cost. I find it hard to believe that the spirit of Rule 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 was implemented to allow this type of time line distinction.

The current petition before this court would create a time frame for students who attend Florida law schools, who are caught in a similar situation as myself, time for their schools to complete the ABA accreditation process and accommodate students schedule for graduation so they are not forced to delay graduation to fit under the 12-month time line. I strongly urge this court to adopt either of the two proposed rule changes set forth by the Orange County Bar Association and Thomas Drage, et. al., and allow the graduates from Barry University School of Law and the law students at other in-state law schools the opportunity to enter this noble profession and work for the citizens of Florida.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Tocco
Barry Graduate June 2000

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 ____ day of _____, 2003.

Name