

July 10, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 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 S. Lapina, a graduate from Barry University School of Law class of June 2000, and I am one of those affected by the Florida Bar's current rules for Admission to the Bar. While I understand the wisdom and purpose behind regulating who is eligible for admission to the bar, I do not understand why the current rules subject students to negative life altering ramifications for things beyond their control.

Since the year 2000 the Florida Legislature created two new law schools FAMU and FIU, both who would open their doors in 2002. During this time the ABA was considering our application for approval, and used the location of FAMU in Orlando against us fearing we could not compete with them for students. Not once since Barry University took over the everyday running of the Law School in March of 1999, did the ABA criticize the quality of the education provided to the students by our faculty members.

In July of 2000 the ABA Committee on Accreditation denied the Law School's application for approval but waived the required waiting period of 10 months for the school to reapply. In an order by this Honorable Court you allowed the graduates to take the July 2000 bar exam with the caveat that the scores be sealed until the school was approved. Would this Honorable Court have done this if you did not believe that the school deserved approval? In August of 2000 the ABA changed the appeals process for law schools and created a system that could prolong an appeal for up to 3 years.

In November of 2000, just after the City of Orlando announced that FAMU College of Law would be located in Orlando, the same ABA Committee recommended that Barry receive ABA Provisional Accreditation. The Council on the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar then made history by reversing the Committee decision, citing that with FAMU coming to Orlando they did not believe that Barry University School of Law could survive. The ABA then negotiated with Barry that the school's application would remain open and a new site visit would be scheduled in September of 2001. It was based on this application that the ABA

approved the school. During this time this Honorable Court granted additional petitions to allow Barry graduates to take the Bar.

Respectfully, I urge this court to grant this petition and end this two year nightmare and protect the investment the State of Florida has made in two new law schools as well as protecting the citizens of Florida who attend these unapproved schools.

Respectfully,

Daniel S. Lapina

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 14th day of July , 2003.

Daniel S. Lapina