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July 9, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 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., Esquire

Case No: SC02-2354

Dear Your Honors,

I am writing to support the OCBA's petition for rule change, Case number SC02-2354.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 14 years, and my bar number is 0827525. While I do not profess to grasp the history of Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, I feel qualified to comment on the pending petition. I have read extensive coverage of the issue in the *Orlando Sentinel* and discussed the matter in great detail with individuals caught in this unfortunate predicament. In fact, I currently employ a Barry Law School graduate, who is re-enrolled at the law school, earning his second Juris Doctorate degree. The knowledge he displays as a law clerk and a future attorney rivals that of any other law school graduate I have encountered in my career.

My understanding of the situation is that while Barry University was undergoing the accreditation process, the American Bar Association changed the process so that the House of Delegates can only remand the accreditation decision back to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. In other words, the House of Delegates is no longer vested with the power to make the final accreditation decision. This change has resulted in the distinct possibility that a final decision could take as long as three years before accreditation could be awarded. The rule however, only provides a law school graduate one year for the school to obtain accreditation. As a result the law school graduate suffers a disadvantage from the expanded time frame awarded to the ABA.

In my opinion a great disservice has been done to these citizens of the State of Florida. The mere thought of a student repeating his or her legal education simply because a law school accreditation decision came 12 months after graduation is patently unfair and unjust. The rule is outdated. As the ABA accreditation policy changes so must the rules established by this Court. It seems only fair to change the 12-month rule to 36 months so these Barry graduates are not forced to repeat the quality education they already received.

Therefore, I support the petition of the OCBA and Thomas Drage, Esquire and I urge this Court to amend Rule 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 regulating admission to the Florida Bar.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Wolfman
Wolfman & Wolfman, P.A.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail to the attorney for the petitioners, Matthew D. Staver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Ave., Longwood, FL 32750.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2003.

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