

June 22, 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 Donald M. Birch, Jr., and my license number is 470260. I am writing you today to express my support for case number SC02-2354.

As a practicing member of the Florida Bar I was discouraged to learn that 109 graduates of Barry University School of Law had to re-enroll in law school for two (2) years to allow them to sit for and receive their results from the Florida Bar Exam.

It would appear to me that the intent behind the current rules relating to bar admission are in place to ensure that graduates taking the bar exam have graduated from a law school that has met certain standards. While I agree it is important to ensure a high level of education, the rule has not changed to reflect the changes in the ABA accreditation process. As a result, Barry's first three (3) graduating classes were denied bar licenses because Florida's rules still follow the accreditation process under the prior ABA accreditation process.

Under the new ABA standards, a school that receives a negative recommendation from the ABA Council to the Section of Legal Education can have its application tied up in appeals for three (3) years, potentially eliminating two (2) years worth of graduates from ever taking the Florida Bar exam. The current Petition before this Court would create a time frame for students at Florida law schools, who find themselves in a similar situation as the Barry graduates, time to allow their respective schools to the appeals process created by the ABA.

I strongly urge this Court to adopt either of the two (2) proposed rule changes set forth in SC02-2354, to 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,

Donald M. Birch, Jr.

**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 June, 2003.

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