

SLOTT & BARKER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

334 EAST DUVAL STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202-2718
TELEPHONE (904) 353-0033
TELECOPIER (904) 355-4148

ARNOLD H. SLOTT, P.A.
E-mail: ahslott@bellsouth.net

EARL M. BARKER, JR., P.A.
E-mail: embarker@bellsouth.net

TERENCE G. VANE, JR.
E-mail: tgvane@bellsouth.net

July 10, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 S. 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: Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esquire.
Case Number: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the above-referenced Petition.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1968 and my number is 0110140. I have been engaged in private practice during my entire career after being released from active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1972. I support the Petition principally because of my contact with one of the students of Barry University who is penalized by the present rule. That student is Loretta Teeling Stevenson. I had the pleasure of dealing with Ms. Stevenson in connection with a matter some months ago. Her role in the case was that of a law clerk; however, she demonstrated an extraordinary professional ability and I was impressed that her law school training was quite successfully complete. She is a credit to her law school.

The present rules unnecessarily would require Ms. Stevenson to repeat two years of law school to be admitted to the Florida Bar. She is ready to be admitted to the Florida Bar today. Accordingly, I believe the rule should be modified so that her qualifications could be examined by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, found satisfactory and so that she could be admitted to the Bar. The time periods in the present rule seem more directed to protecting the interests of law schools than to assuring the qualifications of applicants to The Florida Bar. That deficiency is particularly telling when applied to a person of Ms. Stevenson's qualifications.

Please grant the Petition.

Very respectfully,



Earl M. Barker, Jr.

EMB:hjf