

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 Eric K. Neitzke, and my license number is 357871. I am writing you today to express my concern and support for case number SC02-2354.

As a practicing member of the Florida Bar, I was disappointed to learn the first students and now alumni of Barry University School of Law needed to complete two (2) more years of law school prior to sitting for and receiving their scores from the Florida Bar exam. These graduates were penalized because their school did not obtain provisional accreditation within twelve (12) months as required by the current Supreme Court rules pertaining to bar admission. For this reason, I am in support of changing the existing Supreme Court rules pertaining to bar admission.

I understand the purpose and rationale of the existing rule is to ensure that graduates sitting for the bar exam have graduated from a law school that has complied with the ABA standards. I do not dispute the wisdom behind the rule when it was first adopted. However, since the ABA standards have changed, the current rules may be outdated and in need of scrutiny to comport with the changes in the ABA accreditation process.

Under the new ABA standards, the House of Delegates of the ABA does not have the authority to make the final decision as to whether a law school obtains provisional ABA accreditation. The House of Delegates can only remand back to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education

and Admissions to the Bar for reconsideration. As I understand it, the change has resulted in extending what was typically a twelve (12) month process, into potentially a thirty-six (36) month process. Florida's current rules which requires a school to obtain provisional accreditation within twelve (12) months, effectively precludes applicants from schools caught up in the thirty-six (36) month long appeals process created by the ABA. The current Petition before this Court would create a time frame which affords students at Florida law schools, who find themselves similarly situated to the Barry graduates, time to complete the appeals process.

I urge this Honorable Court to act equitably to conform its rules in order to comply with the reality of the ABA's accreditation process. Further, I urge this Honorable Court to make certain that any law students/alumni from Barry University caught up in this conflict in the rules be afforded full relief in the form of release of their bar scores and, where appropriate, admission to the Florida Bar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric K. Neitzke

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 July, 2003.

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