

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 Eric H. DuBois, 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.

I am the oldest of four children who grew up with a father who was fortunate to practice law in Florida prior to his passing, and I saw the good that he was able to do for his clients; this is what drove me to go to law school. My goal is to help those less fortunate and those who need a voice to ensure that their civil liberties are protected. As a native of South Florida, I was thrilled when Barry University purchased the University of Orlando in March of 1999, because I was familiar with the good work they had done in the community and the University's commitment to quality education and service to the community. What happened to the students in the first three graduating classes was the farthest thing we could have ever imagined would have happened after Barry University took over.

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.

My fear is that as FAMU and FIU go for approval, the ABA may play more games with the accreditation process and force these two schools to jump through similar hoops we had to jump through. Further, the Orlando Sentinel did an expose of other schools in Florida that are having other problems with the ABA, namely FSU and UF. In addition, other horror stories have been heard from schools out of the state. The time is now over for using the lives of graduates and students at these law schools as pawns in the ABA's game.

This summer my sister was applying to law school, and she would not apply to Barry University because she was afraid she would go through what I have gone through. I finally was able to convince her to go to Barry University but she is scared she may be in the same situation I find myself in. I am lucky not to have a family of my own who have to deal with this as well, however I have had to put some of my life's dreams on hold until this nightmare is over.

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,

Eric H. DuBois

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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Eric H. DuBois