

July 8, 2003

VIA USPS MAIL

Supreme Court of Florida  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

**RE: Petition to Amend Rule 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:

I am a fifty (50) year and currently practicing member of the Florida Bar, license number 024383, and am writing to express my support for the above-referenced petition.


My interest in the above-referenced petition lies in the fact that I assisted in supporting, encouraging and employing, at one point, my son, who is currently attending Barry University School of Law ("Barry") for the second time, and who was also a former graduate (Class of Spring 2000) who was prevented from practicing law in the State of Florida due to the accreditation debacle which occurred at Barry. While I realize the complexity of the issues raised, it is unfortunate that this Honorable Court, the Florida Bar and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners were unable to fashion a remedy, prior to this time, that would have allowed these alumni/students the ability to not only sit for the Florida Bar exam but also have the opportunity to receive their final scores irrespective of Barry's ability to obtain provisional accreditation within a specified time frame.

The harm that the 12-month rule was designed to protect against was not protected by keeping Barry's first three (3) graduating classes from the ability to practice law.

I understand that Florida has recently gained two new law schools, FAMU and FIU. My hope is that this Court will change the 12-month rule to protect the students currently embarking on a legal education at these new institutions. Students who endeavor to enter this profession should not be summarily excluded because the 12-month rule does not comport to the American Bar Association ("ABA") accreditation process.

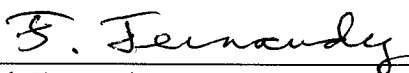
I request this Court adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by Petitioners so that the 12-month rule is changed to reflect the current ABA accreditation process.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Frank Fernandez, Esquire

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.

  
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Frank Fernandez, Esq.