

Frank L. Schiavo, Esq.  
1817 Jessica Court  
Winter Park, Florida 32789

June 23, 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:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the petition proposing amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since October 23, 1975; my license number is 0202312. I have been a professor at Barry University School of Law continuously since August, 1995, the date its predecessor held its first class.

As Associate Dean (September, 1998, through January 2003) during the accreditation process, I experienced daily the trials and tribulations of the students and administration and the reporting in the *Orlando Sentinel*. It was obvious that the original process, designed to be reasonably tailored to assure the quality of the academic environment at a law school, deteriorated quickly into the absurd by the change in the rules, forcing students to graduate prior to the school receiving provisional accreditation.

Under the prior ABA rules, it was more than possible that a new law school would/could receive provisional accreditation within a year of its application. Because of the changes in the rules, that will no longer be the norm. A twelve month rule does not comport with a meaningful appeals process. As discussed in the Petition, the process can easily take up to three years. It must be remembered that the decision to provisionally accredit a school could be based on an application filed more than twelve months before the decision is made.

It is not my intention to assign blame. My intention is to plead with the court for fairness.

Students should not pay a price for the ABA's change in rules. They are innocent third parties. Nothing in any of the reports of the ABA indicated that the educational program was lacking. The school is thriving now despite the warnings of the ABA that there would be a lack of students. The school will not only continue to thrive long into the future but produce professional (not only ethical) lawyers.

Those 109 students are among those who will be outstanding attorneys. Don't let them be the ones caught in the middle of administrative changes by the ABA, changes that were not of their doing. Do not let this scenario replay itself as Florida's two new law schools undergo ABA scrutiny.

I urge the Court to change the Rules in a manner which reflect the high esteem in which it is held, and that suits the honorable profession it regulates.

Very truly yours,

Frank L. Schiavo

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, Matthew D. Staver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2003.

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Frank L. Schiavo