

June 22, 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 Gayle S. Graziano, and my license number is 210870. 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 hear that 109 graduates of Barry University School of Law were denied admission to the Florida Bar because of a delay in their school obtaining provisional accreditation. It seems patently unfair that these 109 graduates were victims of a bureaucratic snafu and were required to pay the ultimate price by re-enrolling in law school for two (2) years. I am in support of changing the existing Supreme Court rules pertaining to bar admission to eliminate these students and others in the future.

I understand the purpose and rationale of the existing rules relating to bar admission. However, it would appear to me that the current rules are outdated and need to be changed to reflect the changes in the ABA accreditation process. Under the new ABA standards, a school that receives a negative recommendation from the ABA Council to the Section of Legal Education can have its application tied up in appeals for three (3) years, potentially eliminating two (2) years worth of graduates from ever taking the Florida Bar exam. The current Petition before this Court would create a time frame for students at Florida law schools, who find themselves in a similar situation as the Barry graduates, time to allow their respective schools to the appeals process created by the ABA.

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I urge this Honorable Court to act swiftly and surely to conform its rules 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 should be afforded full relief in the form of the release of the bar scores and, where appropriate, admission to the Florida Bar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gayle S. Graziano

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 June, 2003.

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