

July 7, 2003

George William Eplin
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Winter Springs, Florida 32708

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 Admission to the Bar
Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage Jr., Esq.
Case No: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

The purpose of this letter is to state 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 Admission to the Bar.

I am a citizen of the State of Florida and a graduate of Barry University School of Law, Orlando. Moreover, I have and continue to serve the community as a law enforcement officer. My career has spanned twenty-seven years at both the local and federal level. The rules as they currently stand, directly affect my current job and future employment as well. Rather than argue the law, my point of view is personal.

I watched the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and the American Bar Association in their dealings with the Barry University School of Law. I saw the Florida Board of Bar Examiners become exclusive of the graduates rather than inclusive and think the behavior is shameful. My personal goal is to become a prosecutor, and no political aspirations cloud the way. The State of Florida needs a class of attorneys dedicated to prosecution in the public interest rather than set on monetary gain. That is one thing I think we all want and need.

Having already graduated and observed our courts first hand for a very long time, I am quite sure my fellow classmates and I could easily become efficient legal technicians in short order. Practitioners who know the complaints of the bench and the profession trained our students. Their teaching was specifically designed to weed out those unable to compete and correct inherent deficiencies in law schools. However, the arbitrary position requiring previously graduated students to repeat classes that other graduates after a certain date are allowed to carry as accredited is unconscionable and capricious. Is that what we as Floridans want?

I have no illusions about graduating from a fifth tier school. However, in experience alone my contemporaries can easily step into the traces as a prosecutor, criminal defense, or civil attorney and deliver above average service in a myriad of legal fields. We, as graduates, had no input or actual knowledge about the accreditation process. Moreover, few students cared about the obvious political and personal animosities between the respective bar associations, school founders, staff, and ultimately acquirers of the law school. We were students focused on the mission of learning, much like you in the beginning. Is that not what we all want?

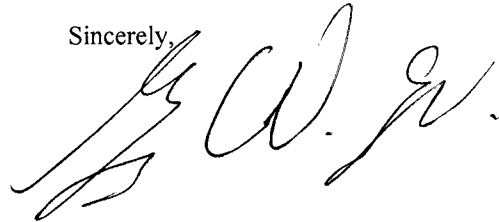
As graduates and once again students, we understand and appreciate the accreditation process as a method to maintain standards of professionalism. However, the rules were used as a punitive measure toward students who had nothing to do with the political wrangling. Quite frankly, they are unfair. We are

all painfully aware that unfair is not legally viable, but it is accurate. In all aspects, this situation has the appearance of old lawyers trying to keep out new lawyers in order to maintain control and derive more profit. This is what we do not want.

In conclusion, the twelve-month rule does not meet the needs of schools involved in the accreditation and appeals process and unnecessarily hampers graduating students. Moreover, this type of action is similar to the election issue that made Florida the butt of late night comedians and national jokes. We do not need anymore of this behavior either.

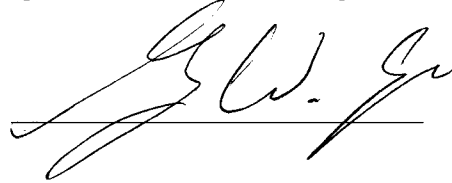
I ask your Honors to consider the rule change and save our state from more negative publicity. Please restore some level of faith on the part of graduated Barry School of Law Alumni and the public. As a citizen of Florida I see it as your job to protect the wronged, particularly when persons not residing in our State levy rules against schools serving the interests of Florida. This is what I want.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. W. J.", written in a cursive style.

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by the U.S. Mail to attorney for the petitioners, Matthew D. Staver, Esq., 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 7th day of July, 2003.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. D. Staver", is written over a horizontal line.