

*Evelyn Gonzalez Berrios
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July 10, 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:

I am writing to urge this honorable court to change the above cited rules relating to admissions to the bar. I am an interested party because I have closely worked for many years with one of the 109 BARRY graduates that had to re-enroll in law school. I have followed the Barry ordeal because one of the legal assistants and someone I consider my friend has been greatly affected by the current rules. She has attended law school faithfully for many years. It has been almost ten years and she still has been unable to practice law. Typically, a new attorney hired has three years of graduate studies and they are hired once they pass the bar. My co-worker is qualified not only because she has completed law school but because she has fifteen years of practical experience. We are eager to see her put this experience to work on behalf of our clients. I believe this honorable court has in the past adjusted the rules in the spirit of allowing qualified candidates to be able to sit for the bar. The 12 month rule was created to include law graduates that otherwise were prevented to practice law. When this honorable court changes the rules it provides positive changes to deal with current times.

I urge this court to once again adjust the law to reflect the current ABA accreditation process, to allow a Florida law school to be able to obtain provisional accreditation, without hurting anyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Gonzalez Berrios
Legal Assistant

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 10th day of July, 2003.

Evelyn Gonzalez Berrios