

July 10, 2003

Justices of the 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 Florida Bar

Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esquire

Case No.: SC02-2354

To the Justices of the Supreme Court of Florida:

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1988. The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the petition filed by the above-referenced Petitioners relating to the proposed amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court relating to Admissions to the Florida Bar.

It has been brought to my attention that many students that have graduated from Barry University School of Law are not currently eligible to sit for the Florida Bar simply because they graduated more than twelve months prior to the law school receiving provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA). It is also my understanding that these students sat in the same classes, used the same books, were taught by the same professors and took the same final exams as students that graduated either twelve months prior to or post provisional accreditation of the law school by the ABA. Even worse, students have had to re-enroll at the law school and take the same classes that rendered them not eligible to sit for the Florida bar in the first place.

It is my position that it is patently unfair and extremely unjust that the students that graduated from the law school pre-accreditation and more than twelve prior to accreditation have to return to law school for a second time in order to become eligible to sit for the Florida Bar. It makes no sense that these returning students are not "educationally qualified" to sit for the Florida Bar simply based on the date of their graduation.

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I urge your Honors to adopt either of the two proposed rule changes set forth in Case No. SC02-2354. I urge that you deem the graduates of Barry University School of Law that graduated more than twelve months prior to the law school receiving provisional accreditation "educationally qualified" as of the date of your decision in this case and allow them to sit for the next Florida Bar exam. I regard the situation that these students are in to be a great injustice and trust that you will agree with me and render a decision to adopt either of the two proposed rule changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Hallie L. Zobel, Esquire
Florida Bar #748218

Certificate of Service

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

Hallie L. Zobel, Esquire