

July 9, 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 Petitioner's 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 1973, and my license number is 167140. I closely followed the debacle that unfolded as Barry University School of Law attempted to gain accreditation through the ABA. The process was widely reported in the *Orlando Sentinel*. What seemed to be at first a reasonable process designed to insure the quality of the academic environment at Barry, instead deteriorated into an absurd predicament where students, after matriculating for several years, found themselves forced to graduate before the school received provisional accreditation.

Whatever the situation was between Barry and the ABA, it seems patently unfair that the students pay the ultimate price for a delay in obtaining provisional accreditation. Let's face it – the school is now accredited and apparently thriving. I am all for changing the Supreme Court rules so they fit the accreditation process. How does a 12-month rule comport with a meaningful appeals process under the current ABA rules? The answer is, it doesn't.

I urge your Honors to change the rules in a manner that suits this Honorable Court and the honorable profession it regulates. Right the wrong that has been perpetrated against the 109 Barry students caught in the snafu. In the process, we will eliminate the possibility that this scenario will re-play itself as Florida's two newest law schools undergo ABA scrutiny.

Respectfully submitted,

  
JACK SPIRA

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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 9th day of July, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
