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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 Rule 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

Dear Esteemed Justices:

I am a writing to support the OCBA's petition for rule change, Case Number SC02-2354.

My interest in the above-referenced petition lies in the fact that I graduated from Barry University School of Law in year 2000. It would appear to me the intent behind the current Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, relating to bar admission are in place to ensure that law school graduates are qualified to take the bar exam.

I agree that it is important to ensure a high level of education. However, the current 12-month rule does not comport with the current ABA accreditation process that it seeks to protect against.

Since 1973, the House of Delegates of the ABA had the final decision as to whether to grant provisional accreditation to a law school. As a result, the elapsed time from the initial ABA site visit to the final decision of the ABA House of Delegates was typically one year or less. Here, the 12-month rule did comport with the old ABA standard.

As this Honorable Court is well aware, in 1999, the ABA accreditation process began changing and the House of Delegates power was no longer vested. The ABA House of Delegates new power was remanding accreditation decisions to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education. Under this current ABA accreditation process, it could take up to three years for a school to achieve accreditation. This is due to the fact that the House of Delegates can remand or refer the accreditation decisions to the Council twice before a law school could achieve provisional accreditation.

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Clearly, the ABA's intent of implementing these new procedures within the accreditation process is a method to protect the law profession from unqualified law school graduates and to maintain the high level of education within law schools.

I respectfully request that this Court adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by petitioners so that the 12-month rule is changed to reflect the current ABA accreditation process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

James Daniel Botkins
Interested Party

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 12th day of July, 2003.

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