

July 2, 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., Esquire
Case No.: SC02-2354

Dear Your Honors:

This letter is being written in support of the above-referenced petition. I am a seven (7) year member of the Florida Bar, license number 0085006.

I have closely followed the story of Barry Law School and its endeavor to become accredited. While I was pleased to see the school finally achieve its goal of provisional accreditation, I am saddened by the over 100 graduates that are being excluded from their dream due to a "silly" loophole. I understand that the intent of the rules relating to admission to the bar is to insure that only qualified individuals become lawyers. However, forcing a student to obtain a second J.D. because his or her law school earned accreditation more than 12 months after graduation is patently unfair and unjust. The fact is – the school is now accredited, so whatever the prior situation was between Barry and the ABA should not be held against the students that did exactly what they were asked to do.

This current 12-month rule has outlived its usefulness and should be changed to at least 36 months, if not omitted all together.

Respectfully,

James Dye, Esquire

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, this ____ day of _____, 2003.

James Dye, Esquire