

July 14, 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 support the OCBA's petition for rule change, Case Number SC02-2354.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1969, and my bar number is 117398. While I do not profess to have intricate knowledge of the history of Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, I feel qualified to comment on the pending petition due to the fact that this firm currently employs two Barry law school graduates, who are re-enrolled at the law school earning their second Juris Doctorate degrees.

My understanding of the situation is that while Barry was undergoing the accreditation process, the ABA changed the process so that the House of Delegates can only remand the accreditation decision back to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. In other words, the House of Delegates is no longer vested with the power to make the final accreditation decision. This change has resulted in the distinct possibility that a final decision could take as long as three years. As a result, the existing "12-month rule" in Florida no longer comports with the ABA accreditation process.

The 12-month rule has outlived its usefulness and should be changed to 36 months so students at FAMU and FIU do not meet the same fate that befell Barry's first three graduating classes. Additionally, I urge this Court to afford immediate relief to the 109 Barry alumni/returning students in the form of release of their bar scores, and, where appropriate, admission to the bar.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. BENNETT

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 14th day of July, 2003.

JOHN F. BENNETT, ESQUIRE