

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA VOLUSIA,

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July 7, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida 500
South Duval Street Tallahassee,
Florida 32399-1927

Re: Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association & Thomas D.
Drage, Jr. Esq. Case No.: SC02-2354
Petition to Amend Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the
Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar

Your Honors:

I have been a member of the Florida Bar Association since 1969 and am currently serving my third term as the elected State Attorney of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

I support the petition proposing Amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court relating to admissions to the Florida Bar.

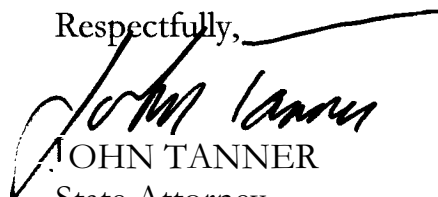
Three of the Barry University Law School graduates that have been denied the privilege of Florida Bar membership worked in this office as legal interns. All three of them would have made excellent State prosecutors and one of them is still employed, as a State Attorney Investigator. I have offered the other two positions as prosecutors as soon as they become members of the Bar.

This office has employed many legal interns from our State universities and several private law schools. The Barry University graduates that we employed were bright, capable, well-prepared and will make fine lawyers. I would hire any one of them tomorrow if they were admitted to practice law.

The Barry University School of Law graduates were caught between an elongated ABA accreditation process and the Florida Bar Rules that have not been modified to accommodate the changed ABA accreditation process. Otherwise, these three fine young lawyers-to-be, along with their 106 fellow graduates would, pending passing the Bar Exam, be practicing law today.

Fairness, equity and common sense should be applied to this situation and the Rules changed and applied retroactively. The Barry University School of Law graduates should be given the opportunity to take the Florida Bar Examination and those who have already taken it should have their scores accepted. Those who pass should be admitted to practice if they pass scrutiny by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

Respectfully,

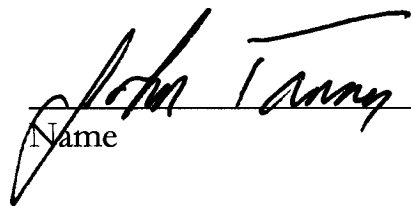


JOHN TANNER
State Attorney

JT:cf

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 day of July, 2003.



Name