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July 8, 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:

My name is Joseph K. Birch and I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 11 years (FBN 912565) and I employed a Barry University School of Law graduate affected by the current rules of admission to the bar in Florida. I am writing you today to express my support for the above-referenced petition.

It would appear to me that the intent behind the current rules of relating to bar admission are in place to ensure that the graduates taking the bar exam have graduated from a law school that has met certain standards. While I agree it is important to ensure a high level of education, the rule has not changed to reflect the changes in the ABA accreditation process, and as a result has resulted in harming over 100 individuals. In 1999 the ABA began changing its accreditation process. Florida's rules relating to the definition of "accredited" and "educationally qualified" have not been substantially changed since the early 1970's. As a result, Barry's first three graduating classes were denied bar licenses because Florida's rules still follow the accreditation process under the prior ABA accreditation process.

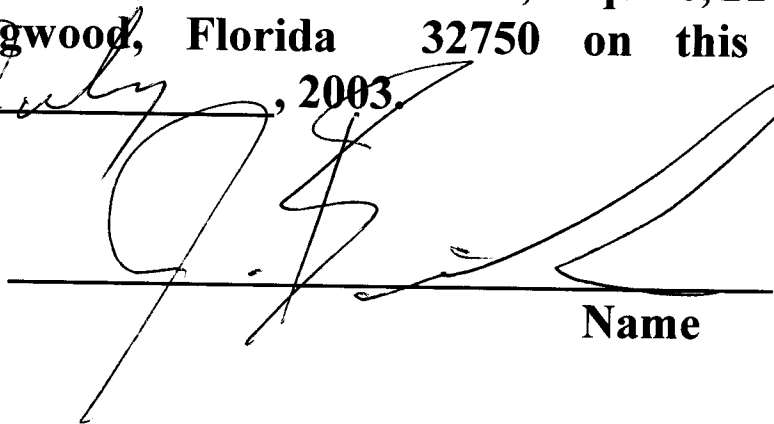
Based on the foregoing, I strongly urge this court to adopt either of the two proposed rule changes set forth in SC02-2354, to allow the graduates from Barry University School of Law and the law students at other in-state law schools the opportunity to enter our profession and work for the citizens of Florida.

Sincerely,


JOSEPH K. BIRCH

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 24th day of July, 2003.



Name