

July 9, 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

Dear Your Honors:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the above-referenced petition proposing amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1978, and my license number is 0253456.

I support the petition because:

- (a.) my firm employs a Barry University School of Law (“Barry”) alumnus as a Paralegal, who is now returning to Barry for a second law degree so she may sit for the July 2004 bar exam,
- (b.) it should be changed for fairness and equity reasons,
- (c.) the timeframe of 12-months is an arbitrary measure of an individual’s ability to pass the bar exam,
- (d.) the 12-month rule is not congruent to the American Bar Association accreditation process which can take up to three (3) years, thereby causing a non-accredited law school student’s graduation date to fall outside the 12-month rule.

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I respectfully request the current rule be changed. I will leave to the court's discretion which proposal to approve and urge the court to take action and change the rules at issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph L. Passiatore  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

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