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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 Admission to the Bar
Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage Jr., Esq.
Case No: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

The purpose of this letter is to state my support for the petition proposing amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admission to the Bar.

I have been a member of the bar since 1999, and my bar number is 0188425. While I do not profess to grasp 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 I associate with several Barry graduates in the professional arena. I am well aware that these individuals have already received their first Juris Doctorate and because of an outdated and arbitrary rule they are required to earn a second degree. This is unprecedented, and patently unjust.

My understanding of the situation is that while Barry University School of Law attempted to gain accreditation, 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 Admission 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 this Honorable Court is well aware thirty-six months is not the current twelve months as currently provided for under the rules.

The twelve month rule has outlived its usefulness and should be changed to thirty-six months so current students at FAMU and FIU do not meet the same fate as befell Barry's first three graduating classes.

I urge your Honors to change the rules in a manner that suits the Honorable Court and the profession it regulates. Right the wrong perpetrated against the 109 Barry students caught in this snafu. In the process, we eliminate the possibility of this scenario playing out again as Florida's two newest law schools undergo ABA scrutiny.

Respectfully submitted,

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by the U.S. Mail to attorney for the petitioners, Matthew D. Staver, Esq., 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this _____ day of _____, 2003.

Attorney ltr Bar12