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June 27, 2003

Reply to: Fort Lauderdale

— *Of Counsel*

Jeffrey C. Fox, P.A.
Vincent J. Grana⁷

Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 34399-1927

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 and Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esq.
Case No.: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

My name is Kenneth J. Sobel, and I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1985. My Florida Bar number is 0511668. I am writing you today to express my support for case number SC02-2354.

As a practicing member of the Bar, it concerns me to learn that 109 of the pioneers of Barry University School of Law had to return to law school for two (2) years to enable them to retake the Florida Bar Examination, receive their results, and practice law in Florida due to an accreditation snafu. I find it impossible to believe that this Honorable Court, the Florida Bar and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners were unable to fashion a remedy prior to this time, that would have allowed these individuals the bar card they so justly deserved.

It would appear to me that the intent behind the current rules 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. 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 over 100 individuals graduating from Barry University's School of Law have been forced to return to law school to earn a second Juris Doctorate degree. Whatever the situation was between Barry and the ABA, it seems unfair that the students pay the ultimate price for a delay in obtaining provisional accreditation. The school is now accredited and apparently thriving.

I urge your Honors to change the rules in a manner that suits this Honorable Court and the honorable profession it regulates. Right the wrong that has been perpetrated against the 109 Barry students caught in this legal quagmire.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Sobel

1. Also admitted in Colorado
2. Also admitted in New York
3. Also admitted in Wisconsin
4. Also admitted in Georgia
5. Also admitted in Texas
6. Also admitted in Minnesota
7. Only admitted in the Province of Quebec