

Date 6.23.03

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 Melissa Clark. I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 1 1/2 Years, and my license number is 0499625. I am writing you today to express my support for case number SC02-2354.

As a practicing member of the Bar I was pained to learn that 109 of the pioneers of Barry University School of Law had to return to law school for two years to enable them to sit for and receive their results from the Florida Bar Exam.

While I understand the courts prior decisions regarding a 12 month rule for educational qualifications under the old ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools, the rule in my opinion does not follow the new ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools. Under the new standards a school that receives a negative recommendation from the ABA Council to the Section of Legal Education can have its application tied up in appeals for three years, potentially eliminating two years worth of graduates from ever taking the Florida Bar exam. The current petition before this court would create a time frame for students at Florida law schools, who are caught in a similar situation to the Barry graduates, time to allow their respective schools to the appeals process created by the ABA.


I strongly urge this court to adopt either of the two proposed rule changes set forth by the Orange County Bar Association and Thomas Drage, et. al., to allow the graduates from Barry University School of Law and the law students at other in-state law schools the opportunity to enter this noble profession and work for the citizens of Florida.

Sincerely,



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. Stayer, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 23 day of June, 2003.

  
Name \_\_\_\_\_