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July 9, 2003

Honorable Members of the Florida  
Supreme Court  
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 Court Bar Association &  
Thomas B. Drage, Jr. Esquire

Case Number: SC02-2354

Your Honors:

My name is Michael H. Lambert, and I have practiced law for over 29 years in the State of Florida, and my Florida Bar Number is 0188156. I am writing to you to express my support for the above styled case. As a practicing lawyer I was astonished to learn that a 109 of the pioneers students of Barry University Law School had to return to law school for two years to enable them to sit and receive the results of their Florida Bar exam.

While I understand the court's 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 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 appeal process created by the ABA. I strongly urge, and respectfully request, your 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 law students at other in-state law schools the opportunity to enter the legal profession and work for the citizens of Florida.

Having gone to law school in the early 1970s, and after my father had passed away, the only way I was able to do it was with student loans, and outside employment, both inside and outside the field of law. Those years were purely goal oriented, rarely sprinkled with pleasure. As a result though, I learned that if you put in the effort and time, your dreams and can be realized.

Many men and women worked diligently, and often went to school at night at Barry' s School of Law, only to learn that what they had been promised would not be fulfilled, despite sacrifices to the family, but done with their sheer devotion to the law.

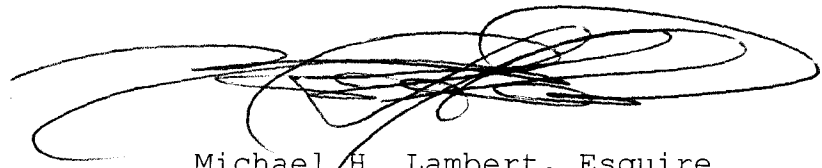
It is so ironic to me that it is the law, their dream career, is that which has discarded their efforts. Equity plays the greatest role in what should be done. Yes, following the law often has an inequitable result, but for this to be their first realization of that, in my mind is far too harsh.

I admire the relentless fortitude of all of these students. They, if allowed, will certainly become what lawyers pledge to be when they are sworn in, but many discard for materiality - crusaders for the downtrodden, the small guy who can only get redress by challenging industry's giants, or an unjust prosecution.

These men and women, in my mind, have proven that they deserve the right to pursue their dreams, sit for the exam, receive their results, and if passed, practice law within this state.

I am,

Most respectfully,

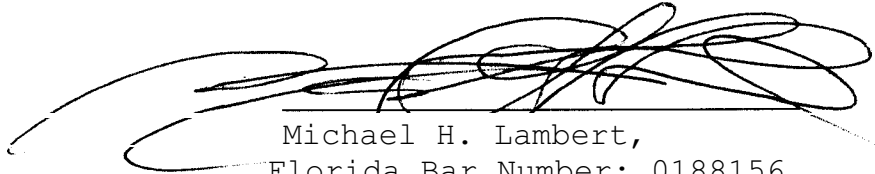
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Michael H. Lambert, Esquire

MHL:mcs

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and flourishes, positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael H. Lambert,  
Florida Bar Number: 0188156

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