

June 26, 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

Your Honors:

My name is Bill E. Parker. I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 31 years, and my license number is 134450. I am writing to express support for Case #SC02-2354.

As a practicing member of the Bar, I was disappointed to learn that the early classes 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.

IT WAS, AFTER ALL, THESE STUDENTS WHO MADE THE LAW SCHOOL IN ORLANDO A REALITY. BUT FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEDICATION, BARRY LAW SCHOOL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCREDITED.

While I understand the courts prior decisions regarding a 12 month rule for educational qualifications under the old ABA Standards of 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 provide a time frame for students at Florida law schools, who are caught in a similar situation to the Barry graduates, and time for the appeals process created by the ABA. This would additionally be a benefit in future applications from all of Florida's law schools.

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 move on toward their career goals.

Sincerely,

Bill E. Parker

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 _____, 2003.

Bill E. Parker