Richard T. McGahey, OIC Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement Orlando, Florida 32809

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 live in the State of Florida, have been a member of the law enforcement community for twenty-nine years. Moreover, I am well acquainted with a Barry Law School graduate. Moreover, I observed the antics of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and the American Bar Association in their dealings with the Barry University School of Law. This student has already graduated once and taken the bar. However, these supposed guardians of the legal trust have precluded his ability to practice law. No one has mentioned how eagerly the school took the tuition money, or the testing services for the LSAT for their services, or even the righteous Florida Board of Bar Examiners for their portion of the bar exam. However, these very persons are the same ones who eagerly grasp at straws to show the schools and therefore the students shortcomings.

Accreditation is a necessary process to maintain professional standards. Then again, when the rules are used as a bludgeon against students who had no input in the political arena they are inequitable. This looks and smells bad to all observers, be they in the profession or merely customers of the attorneys.

This is exactly the sort of issue that gives rise to lawyer jokes. Bad behavior is the reason that people view the legal profession with misgiving and dislike. This twelve-month rule does not serve the public interest or meet the needs of schools in Florida or elsewhere

Your Honors should change the rules for no other reason than to show the Florida Board of Bar Examiners who actually is in charge and the American Bar Association they cannot come to Florida and manhandle our institutions of higher learning. I suggest the Supreme Court has a job to do here, much like the job during the presidential elections. It was an ugly job, but necessary, and so is this one. Someone is treating your citizens unfairly and it is your turn to right that wrong. Please do so in the best interests of Florida.

Respectfully submitted

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