

June 25, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 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

Dear Your Honors:

I am 12-½ year member of the Florida Bar, license number 0864803, and am writing to express my support for the above-referenced petition.

My interest in the above-referenced petition lies in the fact that I currently work with a Barry Law School graduate, Lisa Kim Estrada, who was prevented from practicing law in the State of Florida due to the accreditation snafu that befell Barry. 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 alumni/students the bar card they so justly deserved.

Surely the harm that the 12-month rule was designed to protect against was not protected by keeping Barry's first three graduating classes from practicing law.

Further, I understand that Florida has recently gained two new law school, FAMU and FIU. My hope is that this Court will change the 12-month rule to protect the students currently embarking on a legal education at these new institutions. Students who endeavor to enter this honorable profession should not be summarily excluded because the 12-month rule does not comport with the ABA accreditation process.

I request that this Court adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by petitioners so that the 12-month rule is changed to reflect the current ABA accreditation process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard McNally  
Assistant Secretary