

July 11, 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:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the above-referenced petition proposing amendments to Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Admissions to the Bar. I have been a member of the Florida Bar since 1977, and my license number is 0229555.

I support the petition for two major reasons. First, my office has employed Barry University School of Law ("Barry") students and alumni as Law Clerks or Paralegals for the past two and one half years, including one alumna who is now returning to Barry for a second law degree so she may sit for the 2004 bar exam. The work performed by these students and alumni has always been acceptable and frequently has been excellent. These individuals have performed at levels on parity with law clerks from other Florida law schools.

The second reason I support the rule amendments is that the 12-month rule is not practical, given to the American Bar Association accreditation process which can take up to three years, thereby causing many students at non-accredited law schools to delay graduation or to have a graduation date which falls outside of the current 12-month rule. There does not appear to be a rational reason for this time line, particularly for a Florida-based law school that does achieve accreditation within a reasonable time frame.

I respectfully request the current rules be changed as proposed in the Petition in Case No. SC02-2354. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

**Robert D. Guthrie**  
Assistant County Attorney

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 July, 2003.

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Robert D. Guthrie  
Assistant County Attorney