

July 15, 2003

Via Hand-Delivery

Supreme Court of Florida
The Office of the Clerk
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

Re: Petition to Amend Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, Rules of the Supreme Court
Relating to Admissions to the Bar;
Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association and Thomas B. Drage, Jr.,
Esquire;
Case No.: SC02-2354

Dear Your Honors:

This letter is submitted to express 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 (the "Petition"). I have been a member of the Bar since 1980 and my license number is 0291676.

The application of the current rule is unfair and overly harsh to recent graduates of Barry University School of Law as well as those anticipated to graduate from the new State established law schools at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and Florida International University.

Regardless of the goal of the accreditation process, the quality of law schools vary over time. The public will be protected and the maintenance of high professionalism will be maintained by placing confidence in the Florida Bar exam and the personal character investigation embedded in the current admission process.

The polestar for admission should be the passage of the Florida Bar exam and the established background investigation. The time periods involved in accreditation over recent years have changed and the approval process extended. Recent law students should not be penalized if they are otherwise qualified and have established proficiency by passage of the Florida Bar exam.

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I respectfully request the current rule be changed to the Second Proposal in the Petition which starts the accreditation clock when the application for approval is submitted to the American Bar Association and the initial site visit is conducted prior to or within 12 months of graduation. However, I find the First Proposal extending the current twelve-month deadline cut off date to thirty six months equally acceptable. I will leave it to the Court's discretion which proposal to approve. However, I urge the Court to take action to change the rules based upon fundamental fairness.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah M. Bleakley

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail to Mathew D. Staver, Esquire, 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 15th day of July 2003.

SARAH M. BLEAKLEY