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July 3, 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

Dear Your Honors:

I am writing to support the OCBA's petition for rule change, Case Number SC02-2354.

I have been a member of the Florida Bar for 3 years, and my bar number is 0182796. While I do not profess to grasp a history of Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, I feel qualified to comment on the pending petition due to the fact that I currently know a Barry law graduate who is working in our firm. If I don't know anything else, I know this: forcing a student to earn a second J.D. because his/her law school earned accreditation more than 12 months after graduation is patently unfair and unjust.

My understanding of the situation is that while Barry was undergoing the accreditation process, the ABA changed the process so that the House of Delegates can only remand the accreditation decision back to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. In other words, the House of Delegates is no longer vested with the power to make the final accreditation decision. This change has resulted in the distinct possibility that a final decision could take as long as three years. As this Honorable Court is well aware, three years is 36 months, not 12 months as currently provided for under the rules.

The 12-month rule has outlived its usefulness and should be changed to 36 months so students at FAMU and FIU do not meet the same fate that befell Barry's first three graduating classes.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy N. Robinson Pierce, Esquire

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 3rd day of July, 2003.

Stacy N. Robinson Pierce, Esquire