

July 7, 2003

Stephen C. Lewis  
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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 seven years and I am well acquainted with a Barry Law School graduate. Moreover, I observed the actions 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, the 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 entities for the LSAT for their services, or even the Florida Board of Bar Examiners for their portion of the bar exam. However, these very persons are the same ones who grasp at straws to show the schools and therefore the students' shortcomings.

Accreditation is a necessary process to maintain professional standards. However, when the rules are used as a club against students who had no input in the political arena they are inequitable. This situation 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 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,



Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by the U.S. Mail to attorney for the petitioners, Matthew D. Staver, Esq., 210 Palmetto Avenue, Longwood, Florida 32750 on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2003.



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