

July 7, 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 Justices:

I am writing in support of the above named petition. I presently am, and have been for 19 years, a member in good standing of the Florida Bar.

While I do not profess to understand the history of Rules 2-11.1 and 4-13.2, I feel compelled to comment on the pending petition due to the fact that I currently employ a May 2000 graduate of the Barry University School of Law (hereinafter referred to as "Barry"), who is re-enrolled at Barry in an attempt to earn a second Juris Doctorate in order to gain admission to the Florida Bar examination and, if appropriate, admission to the Bar.

My understanding of the need of and for the amendments proposed by the above petition is that between 1999 and 2001 the ABA procedurally changed its accreditation process so that their House of Delegates is no longer vested with the power to make the final determination of accreditation. I understand that this change has resulted in the distinct possibility that a final decision on an application for accreditation may likely take much longer than the 12 month window afforded Florida law school students by Rule 4-13.2.

Further, I understand that Florida has recently gained 2 new law schools, in FAMU and FIU. My hope is that this Honorable Court will adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by petitioners to protect those students who are, or will be, attending these institutions prior to their provisional accreditation. Every effort should be made to ensure those students do not meet the same fate that befell Barry's earliest graduates. Additionally, I urge this Honorable Court to grant Barry's earliest graduates relief in the form of the release of the results of their attempts at the bar examination and, where appropriate, admission to the Florida Bar.

Thank you for your considerations.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven C. Brown

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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