

VIA USPS MAIL

July 8, 2003

Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

RE: Petition to Amend Rule 2-11.1 and 4-13.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court

Relatin2 to Admissions to the Bar

Petitioners: The Orange County Bar Association & Thomas B. Drage, Jr., Esq.

Case No.: SCO2-2354

Your Honors:

I am a 15 year member of the Florida Bar, license number 710296, and am writing to express my support for the above-referenced petition.

My interest in the above-referenced petition lies in the fact that I currently employ a Barry University School of Law (“Barry”) graduate who was prevented from practicing law in the State of Florida due to the accreditation delays which occurred at Barry. While I realize the complexity of the issues raised, it is unfortunate this Honorable Court, the Florida Bar and the Florida Board of Bar Examiners were unable to fashion a remedy, prior to this time, that would have allowed these alumni/students the ability to not only sit for the Florida Bar exam but also have the opportunity to receive their final Bar exam scores irrespective of Barry’s ability to obtain provisional accreditation within a specified time frame.

I question whether the harm that the 12-month rule was designed to protect against was prevented by keeping Barry’s first three (3) graduating classes from the ability to practice law. The most unfortunate consequence is that many students were forced to abandon their dream of practicing law because they could not afford, whether economically or otherwise, to repeat their courses. Those who are able to continue to have made great sacrifice without any real tangible benefit to themselves or the clients they hope to one day serve.

I understand that Florida has recently approved two new law schools, FAMU and FIU. My hope is that this Court will consider changing the 12-month rule to protect the students currently embarking on a legal education at these new institutions. Students who endeavor to enter this profession should not be summarily excluded because the 12-month rule does not comport with the American Bar Association (“ABA”) accreditation process.

I respectfully request this Court adopt and implement one of the proposals submitted by Petitioners so that the 12-month rule is changed to reflect the current A accreditation process.

Respectfully Submitted,

William H. Robinson, Jr, Esquire
General Counsel

Supreme Court of Florida
In Re: Case No.: SCO2-2354
Page 2 of 2

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 9th day of July, 2003.

William H. Robinson, Jr, Esq.