

SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. SC05-1150

In Re: Petition to Amend Rules
Regulating The Florida Bar –
Rule 4-1.5(f) (4)(B) of the
Rules of Professional Conduct.

**COMMENTS OF MILTON S. BLAUT, ATTORNEY, FLORIDA BAR NO. 209988
AND OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

MILTON S. BLAUT, ESQ. respectfully submits the following comments and objections to the proposed Amendment to the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar – Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)(B) of the Rules of Professional Conduct:

1. As a member of the Florida Bar and a practicing attorney, I file this pleading to voice my opposition to the Grimes Petition.
2. This Petition is an abuse of a procedural privilege extended to each of us as members of The Florida Bar to seek changes in the rules regulating our profession, which are supposed to advance our profession and our professionalism. The Grimes Petition is not intended to advance our practice or benefit jurisprudence. Instead, the Petition is filed on behalf of an undisclosed client in an effort to gain a litigation advantage as to the constitutionality of Amendment 3.
3. Rather than an effort to improve our Bar through rule change, the Petitioners seek to graft Amendment 3 into a Bar rule change and thereby avoid a test of the Amendment's underlying legality under our State and Federal Constitutions.
4. Amendment 3 is unconstitutional as it violates the rights of malpractice victims to due process, freedom of association, equal protection, and access to courts. Moreover, a rule change of this nature would prevent a victim's right to waive one constitutional right (assuming for argument's sake the Amendment was

constitutional) in favor of another potentially conflicting right. The constitutionality of Amendment 3 should be addressed by our judiciary and not side stepped by the Grimes Petition.

5. The true purpose of Amendment 3 is transparent. The purpose is to prevent or severely limit the right of Plaintiffs to retain counsel on a contingency fee basis in medical negligence cases.
6. Any individual existing rights under the current Florida Bar rule to contract with a lawyer of his or her choice should not be changed. To do otherwise impairs a client's rights under both the State and Federal Constitutions. The freedom each individual citizen has to contract for legal services with the lawyer of his or her choosing must remain inviolate.
7. Therefore, I oppose the Petition and request that this Honorable Court deny the Petition.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by U.S. Mail upon **John Harkness**, General Counsel, The Florida Bar, 651 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300 and **Stephen H. Grimes**, Counsel for Petitioners, Holland and Knight, LLP, P.O. Box 810, Tallahassee, FL 32302-0810 on July 26th, 2005.

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By: _____
MILTON S. BLAUT
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