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September 5, 2005

Supreme Court of Florida
Supreme Court Building
500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1925

Re: Proposed Amendment to Rule 4-1.5(f)(4)B
Case No.: SC05-1150

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court:

It has come to my attention that you are considering a rule change to Amendment 3. As I understand, this change would harm those individuals who have been injured due to medical negligence; they would no longer be afforded access to our courts as many attorneys would no longer be able to afford to take these cases. In fact, I have heard that many attorneys have quit taking malpractice cases already.

Is it fair to allow doctors and hospitals to hire anyone they want for representation, while victims can only choose from what will become a small pool of attorneys? How can it be that victims of auto accidents can choose any representation, yet those victims of true medical negligence cannot?

If you believe there is medical negligence in Florida, then please rule **against** this proposed change and allow your citizens to pursue their rights in the courts as anyone else can.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lance E. Howden

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy of the foregoing was furnished

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to JOHN F. HARKNESS, JR. ESQ., Executive Director of the Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300, and STEPHEN H. GRIMES, ESQ., P.O. Drawer 810, Tallahassee, Fl. 32302, by mail, this 21st Day of October, 2005.

Lance E. Howden