

**SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA**

**CASE NO. SC05-1150**

In re: Petition to Amend Rules  
Regulating The Florida Bar -

Rule 401.5(f)(4)(B) of the  
Rules of Professional Conduct

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COMMENTS OF LEO A. THOMAS, ATTORNEY,  
FLORIDA BAR NO. 149502 AND OBJECTIONS TO  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Leo A. Thomas respectfully adopts in full the comments and objections of Andrew Y. Winston 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 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 (The Florida Medical Association) 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 and their shadow client (the FMA) 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 court. 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 in its disingenuous effort to alter our professional rules of conduct.
5. 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 this \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2005.

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