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September 12, 2006

Thomas D. Hall, Clerk  
The Supreme Court of Florida  
500 South Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1925

Re: Support for Rule 20, Florida Registered Paralegal  
Case No. SC06-1622

Dear Sir:

I would strongly urge you to adopt Chapter 20 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar establishing the Florida Registered Paralegal program. I am an active member of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Inc. ("PAF"), which association is a part of the Florida Alliance of Paralegals Associations, Inc. ("FAPA") who introduced HB 1519 and SB 2054 ("Paralegal Profession Act). I have been very active in the advancement of the paralegal profession for many years. I feel that it is critical for our profession to be regulated at this time.

The profession has for many years sought a standard for identity and clarity, but more importantly, we seek regulation in order to ensure that those entering the profession do so under similar educational standards and guidelines so the public, lawyers and the Courts can be assured of a minimum competency level for those that use the title "paralegal" in this state. I strongly believe it will not create additional costs for consumers or in any way limit the public's access to legal services, and, in fact, are hopeful it will minimize public harm. It will clarify who may provide services either directly to the public or under the supervision of a lawyer, and the entire legal profession will be enhanced by it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia C. DeRamus, CP  
Certified Paralegal  
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cc: John Harkness, Executive Director  
The Florida Bar