

August 17, 2006

Judith M. Deary, CLA, CFLA  
Certified Paralegal  
1120 North Shore Dr., NE, Unit 903  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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

RE: SC06-1622. Petition to Amend the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar  
To Add Chapter 20 – Florida Registered Paralegal Program

Dear Mr. Hall:

This writing is in support of Rule 20. It has been an honor for me to work in the legal field for over 25 years in Pinellas County doing substantive legal work under the supervision of attorneys. I have worked with ethical and professional behavior and responsibility for my work product.

I am committed to the paralegal profession and achieved my certifications by sitting for a 2-day written examination by the National Association of Legal Assistants and by written examination by the Florida Paralegal Association, Inc

Certified paralegals do not give legal advice. Today, paralegals are performing a far too involved and significant role in the legal process not to be regulated with respect to educational requirements, proven knowledge and a personal commitment to ethical behavior. They are the staff with whom clients often have the most contact and depend upon for assistance and reassurance. Titles are used by individuals, without qualification or merit, and clients are being charged fees, often irresponsibly, for their work. Certified paralegals welcome the opportunity to be regulated under The Florida Bar and the laws and rules of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Respectfully,

Judith M. Deary

Cc: Mr. John Harkness, Executive