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September 7, 2006

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

Re: Support for Proposed Rule 20, Florida Registered Paralegal Program

Dear Mr. Hall:

I have been a paralegal in Florida since 1982. I am a member of the Paralegal Association of Florida, Hillsborough Chapter, (PAF) and the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). I am very much in favor of Rule 20.

Through the efforts of paralegals state wide, and organizations like PAF and NALA, great strides have been made in demonstrating that paralegals are separate and distinct from legal secretaries by virtue of their education, training and experience. Such a distinction requires a more substantive knowledge of the law and awareness of a paralegal's ethical responsibilities. Institution of the Florida Registered Paralegal Program is the logical progression of a profession on which attorneys and clients greatly rely.

Since their inception, our governments on both the State and Federal levels have regulated professions for the protection of the public. Approval of Rule 20 will further protect the public from unscrupulous or uninformed individuals who know nothing about the ethics associated with the paralegal profession.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Denise I. Dimond*

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cc: John Harkness, Executive Director, The Florida Bar