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August 25, 2006

Florida Supreme Court Attention: Thomas D. Hall, Clerk 500 South Duval Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

Re: Case Number: SC06-1622

Amendment to Rule 20 Florida Registered Paralegal Program

Dear Mr. Hall:

Please accept my letter of support regarding the proposed Amendment to Rule 20 regarding the regulation of paralegals in Florida. I have worked in the legal field since 1998. As a certified paralegal, I support holding paralegals to a higher standard.

A bill defining who can be a paralegal is long over due. As we know, there are many unqualified people calling themselves "paralegals." The proposed tier system would set forth a complete definition of who is qualified to be a paralegal and it would set a higher standard for paralegals.

Education is so important when working in the legal field. There are numerous matters I have been educated on including ethics, an understanding of the law, conflicts, and the unauthorized practice of law. Rule 20 would require that paralegals have education, training, and work experience.

I fully support the proposed Amendment to Rule 20.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Jaime Stevenson Fernandez

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