

August 23, 2006

SENT VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL

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:

I am writing this letter in support of the adoption of Rule 20. As an attorney who has practiced estate planning and tax law over the last seven years in the Tampa Bay area, I have seen the value of dedicated paralegals in this profession.

Given the depth of involvement that paralegals have in the legal process today, it is dangerous if they are not 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.

Furthermore, it is my own personal experience that certified paralegals welcome the opportunity to be regulated under The Florida Bar and the laws and rules of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Best regards,

Andrew M. Fussner, Esq.
Vice President of Estate Settlement

cc: Mr. John Harkness, Executive Director, Florida Bar