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September 14, 2006

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

Re: Proposed Rule 20, Florida Registered Paralegal Program  
Reference: SC06-1622

Dear Mr. Hall:

I have worked in law in Florida since 1972 first as a legal secretary, then as a paralegal educated through Miami Dade College's ABA-approved course of study and certified through the National Association of Legal Assistants.

I wholeheartedly support the movement to promulgate a definition of "paralegal" along with qualifications and standards for the paralegal profession, believing regulation to be in the best interests of paralegals, the attorneys they serve, and the public's understanding of the proper role of paralegals.

However, I do not support The Florida Bar's proposal that the Bar should regulate paralegals. Any organizational structure providing for regulation of employees by their employers is tainted with incipient conflict of interest. The Bar's support for paralegal regulation is most encouraging, but its proposal is not the best means to the end.

I support autonomous governance of the paralegal profession overseen by the Supreme Court of the State of Florida, for reasons more fully outlined in the South Florida Paralegal Association's objections to The Florida Bar's petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine M. Goe, CP  
Certified Paralegal

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