

September 14, 2006

Florida Supreme Court  
Attention: Clerk of the Court  
Reference: SC06-1622  
500 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

Re: **Florida Bar's Petition for Rule 20 – SC06-1622**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The above referenced matter will soon be before you to rule and I wanted to make sure I lodged my thoughts with you as a concerned Paralegal professional for over 25 years prior to your deliberation. I must say that I agree with the licensing/registration of Paralegals and/or Legal Assistants in the State of Florida. However, after reading the proposed Petition I am puzzled and disturbed with the Florida Bar's handling of the matter.

It is my understanding that for several years the Florida Bar tried to stonewall this issue as they did not particularly want regulation of "their" assistants. The ability to bill for paralegal and legal assistant work had always been acknowledged by the courts. However, to be able to bill for "secretaries" time as well was a bonus. Just call them legal assistants. No education, no past experience, no regulation.

That is why making the Petition and the registering of paralegals voluntary seems to be a little disingenuous. To have attorneys who have a vested interest in who registers and who gets to be included in this Program is like having the fox rule the henhouse.

It is my opinion that this Program should first, be mandatory for anyone who wants to use the term paralegal and/or legal assistant and second it should be monitored and regulated by the Supreme Court and not the Florida Bar.

I therefore support the South Florida Paralegal Association's objections to the Florida Bar's petition to regulate the profession and support the autonomous governance of the paralegal profession overseen and monitored by the Supreme Court.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

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