

**COMMENTS REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 11**  
**OF THE RULES REGULATING THE FLORIDA BAR**

\_\_\_\_\_ These comments are in response to the proposed amendment to Rule 11-1.3, which covers the requirements that must be satisfied in order for a law school student to be certified and make appearances on behalf of clients as part of a law school practice program. The proposed amendment would limit such certification to students who, among other requirements, have “made application for admission to The Florida Bar and received a letter of initial clearance as to character and fitness from the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.”

Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA) is the provider of legal services to low income person in Jacksonville. The resources devoted to JALA to serve the poor are meager. Private attorneys providing pro bono services are limited. A dependable source for additional client advocacy and JALA attorney support has always been certified legal interns. Certified legal interns also provide JALA an excellent opportunity to expose the future of the Bar to the legal needs of the poor. Certified legal interns often become the best pro bono lawyers and sometimes even join legal aid staff.

I urge you to do all you can to minimize and eliminate any existing or proposed barriers to maximizing the availability of certified legal interns to be a part of the Legal Aid experience.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that a true and correct copy of the above document has been furnished by United States mail this 26 day of September, 2005 , upon John F. Harkness, Executive Director of the Florida Bar, 651 E. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300; William P. White III, Chair of the Chapter 11 Task Force, 26 N. Market Street, Suite 200, Jacksonville, FL 32202-2802.

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