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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

In Re:

Amendments to the Code of Judicial Conduct; the  
Florida Rules For Certified and Court-Appointed  
Mediators; the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure;  
the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration; the  
Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure; and the  
Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure – Senior  
Judges as Mediators.

Case No.: SC13-1732

**COMMENTS TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**  
**REGARDING SENIOR JUDGE/MEDIATORS**

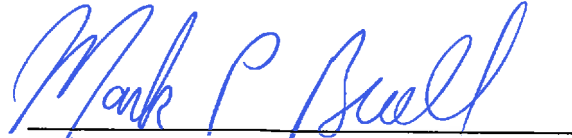
We appreciate the concern over avoiding conflicts, or the appearance of any conflicts, between a judge sitting as a senior judge and acting as an arbitrator or mediator. Current Rule 5.F. (2) does speak to those issues, and respectfully in our view, addresses those concerns.

We are concerned the new rule would result in a reduction of qualified senior judges continuing to serve in that capacity. Given the choice between earning \$350 per day of senior judge service, and being precluded from serving as a mediator or arbitrator where the judge would likely be paid more than that per hour, we fear many qualified senior judges would elect to no longer serve in that capacity.

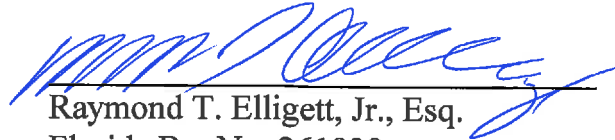
Accordingly, we respectfully suggest senior judges also be permitted to serve as arbitrators and mediators (of course, not in the same case).

Dated: November 11, 2013

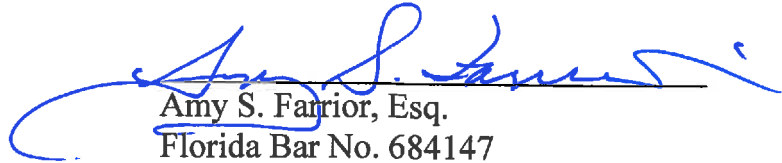
Respectfully submitted,



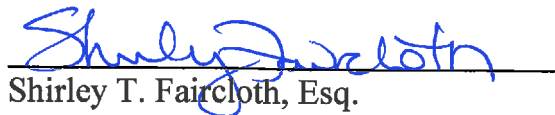
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