



CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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VIA E-MAIL TO MHIGER@BERGERSINGERMANN.COM

President Michael Higer
The Florida Bar
651 E Jefferson St
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Resolution in Support of Subcommittee to Study Florida Criminal Discovery Rules

President Higer,

On behalf of the Cuban American Bar Association, enclosed please find a Resolution in Support of Subcommittee to Study Florida Criminal Discovery Rules as they Relate to Child Victim and Witnesses.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JL Piedra', is written over a blue horizontal line.

Jorge L. Piedra
President

CC: State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle

CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY FLORIDA CRIMINAL
DISCOVERY RULES AS THEY RELATE TO CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida regularly deals with child victims and witnesses of crimes;

WHEREAS, the Cuban American Bar Association's Pro Bono Project, a non-profit organization and subsidiary of the Cuban American Bar Association, also regularly deals with child victims and witnesses of crimes;

WHEREAS, the advances in the study of brain development and neurological science as they relate to victims and witnesses of trauma have grown exponentially in the past twenty years;

WHEREAS, the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, in particular those rules relating to criminal discovery, were drafted long before the aforementioned recent developments in the study of brain development and neurological science;

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Attorney and the Pro Bono Project regularly see first-hand how child victims and witnesses of crimes are negatively impacted by the real-life application of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure;

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine drafted a joint White Paper detailing these negative impacts;

WHEREAS, said White Paper has already been submitted to the President of the Florida Bar, Michael Higer, on January 3, 2018, as an attachment to a letter drafted by the Office of the State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Cuban American Bar Association supports the January 3, 2018 letter from Katherine Fernandez Rundle of the Office of the State Attorney for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit and the accompanying White Paper, and urges the Florida Bar to convene a subcommittee to study how the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, in particular the criminal discovery/deposition rules, can be reformed to better prevent the compounding of trauma for child victims and witnesses of crimes.

We, the undersigned, being all the directors of the Cuban American Bar Association, Inc., consent and agree that the foregoing resolution was made on February 6, 2018.

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